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PRAYERS FOR TRAVELLERS.

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BRIEF PRAYERS

FOR

TRAVELLERS.

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FOR

TRAVELLERS.

BY

THOMAS BRITTAIN VACHER.

WITH A PREFACE BY THE

REV. WILLIAM CONWAY, M.A.,

CANON OF THE ABBEY CHURCH, AND RECTOR OF ST. MARGARET'S, WESTMINSTER.

LONDON:
HATCHARD & CO. 187 PICCADILLY.
1868.

138. g. 348.

LONDON:
STRANGEWAYS AND WALDEN, PRINTERS,
28 Castle St. Leicester Sq.

PREFACE.

After perusing the following 'Brief Prayers,' I have much pleasure in commending them to travellers as a handbook of devotion which may prove a useful companion to them on their journeys by land or sea. They are the composition of a pious layman well known in my neighbourhood. Having been written for his own edification, chiefly while travelling in foreign lands, they are marked by a reality and simplicity that cannot fail to render them acceptable to devout persons under similar circumstances. They are an example of religion in common life, of piety entering (as true

piety must always enter) into the joys and sorrows, the blessings and trials, the cares and comforts, of our daily experience.

As there is no better test of the Christian life than a prayerful spirit, so there are no means of maintaining and invigorating that life without communion with God in the exercises of meditation and prayer. Few of God's children give Him credit for the faithfulness of His promises to them that worship Him in spirit and in truth. The full and finished sacrifice of our Saviour Christ assures to every penitent believer in Him a title to draw near with acceptance to God, as to a reconciled Father; and the Holy Spirit is given through the mediation of Christ to help our infirmities, and make intercession for us according to God's will.

An old Writer has remarked that prayer is necessary, rather to draw us to God than to draw God to us; just as the sailor uses his boat-hook, not to pull the shore to the

boat but the boat to the shore. Our Heavenly Father's willingness to receive us, for Christ's sake, is our warrant to approach the throne of grace; and in this access to God such exhilarating views and sublime prospects, such repose and refreshment, such mental improvement and spiritual health, are vouchsafed, as none can realize but they who live for both worlds by regarding the 'life that now is' in the light of a pilgrimage to the better 'life which is to come.'

W. CONWAY.

St. Margaret's Rectory,
July 14*th*, 1868.

A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR.

A THOUGHTFUL Sexagenarian ventures to put forth the following pages, with diffidence, yet with an earnest desire to be in some way profitable to the many persons, whom periodical relaxation, the depressing effects of mental toil, or recovery from sickness, may send in hopeful pursuit of renewed energy.

In many rambles through many lands, he has found both the blessing and solace of prayer; the expression of his confidence when leaving home and its associations for a time; an act of grateful remembrance of God amid the freshness of new scenes and impressions; and unfailing aid in acquiring peace, calm as evening light, under weariness or perplexity. And when danger appeared imminent, or calamity was present, then has the exercise of trustful prayer induced abiding consolation that our great Preserver is an ever present refuge.

The plan of the work will sufficiently appear, by pointing out that the first forty eight prayers are suitable for every day (though not necessarily in their exact order), the twenty fifth to the forty eighth being more adapted for use in a foreign country. The ten immediately succeeding are suggested for the four Sundays corresponding with this period, and for any Sunday that may be passed at sea. They thus form a Series of Four Weeks; which can be recommenced (omitting the first four prayers), or be selected according to circumstances, if the journey be extended beyond that time. The remaining prayers are intended for occasional use, under various incidents of rejoicing or sorrow, or other contingencies in travelling. A quotation from Scripture serves as the leading idea in each; and these sentences, chiefly selected from the book of Psalms, that richest mine of devotional wealth, may afford appropriate subjects for profitable meditation. With the view also of providing some further help towards the orderly perusal and study of Scripture in travelling, a Table of Select Chapters suitable for the purpose, is added at the end of the Book.

It has been the author's endeavour, to realize

in prayer the simple thought of speaking with God; pleading as an erring child with a tender forgiving parent; confiding in his undoubted love, whilst conscious of entire unworthiness; and casting away every plea but that of our Saviour's perfect righteousness and atonement; strong in faith, yet meek in petitioning. He regards sobriety of language as the plainest evidence of sober-mindedness, and it well becomes such a suppliant to speak no other. Highly figurative, symbolic, or rapturous expressions, have been avoided, in the belief that they tend more to foster questionable excitement than a becoming spirit of devotion. In comparison with those in whom this holy imagery would be truly expressive, there may be a large number in some danger of being led by mere feeling, to think unduly of their prayers, and possibly with less exalted consideration of the Almighty God whom they are addressing. Surely the precept, 'Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God; for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few,' was not given as an unnecessary injunction; to have no practical bearing on the supplications we offer to

the Majesty of God, ruling over all his creatures, in infinite wisdom, power, and love.

The prayers have generally been written in the course of vacation tours in our own country or abroad; influences of time and place have therefore imparted to certain of them an identity which may, on like occasion, enhance their estimation. It only remains to commend them to God's blessing, trusting that they may be rendered effectual towards furthering a habit of devotion in travelling, and particularly with the multitude of tourists, who at customary periods are dispersed over the length and breadth of many countries, wherever increased facilities of transit open a way for healthful recreation.

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Week-day Prayers.

First Day. *Morning.*

ON LEAVING HOME.

'The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?'—*Ps.* xxvii. 1.

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose presence fills the heavens and the earth, and who dost control all things for thy children's good; to thy paternal care I commit my way, in firm assurance that Thou wilt not leave me without protection, nor suffer my hope to fail. We are unworthy to ask anything of ourselves; but I come in the Name of our Lord and Saviour, whom Thou hearest always.

About to separate from those whom Thou hast made dear to me, my thoughts are resting on what is yet hidden in the mysteries of thy providence; on the time when my present purpose may be accomplished, and I may again return, and find my family, as they are now, surrounded with blessings of every kind, and trouble, sickness, and death, still strangers to our dwelling. We regard our separation as only for a short time, too for-

getful that in the midst of life we are in death, not knowing what a day may bring forth.

Praised be thy Name, for power, goodness, and mercy. We need fear no evil, for Thou art with us; and no enemy can harm, nor danger overcome the objects of thy care, unless sin should interpose to draw on us the strength of thy displeasure. Lord, be Thou my guide, my helper, my preserver, in every place where I can pray thy blessing to attend me; and keep me from every pursuit, and help me to overcome every thought, which I dare not ask Thee to prosper with thy abundant grace.

In every circumstance of my journey, may I truly experience the consolation of thy all-prevailing watchfulness. I am never alone or unprotected, for Thou art at my right hand; and I know that Thou wilt require a due improvement of all the means wherewith Thou dost refresh my mind and body, to serve Thee more effectually.

All-bountiful Father, do Thou restore me in good time to my home and family. Surely trusting in thy providence to keep and defend them, permit me to look forward joyfully to the day when we may again assemble in thy Name, and unite with thankful hearts in declaring what rich mercies Thou hast poured out on us. For Jesus' sake, I humbly entreat all things necessary for our life here, in preparation for the life that is to come. AMEN.

THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY.

'It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.'—*Ps.* cxviii. 8.

O LORD our God, thy willing mercy ever attends the paths of those who trust in Thee alone for help and guidance. Receive now, I beseech Thee, the prayer of thine unworthy servant, on whom the mercies of thy providence have been so largely multiplied. It is thy gift, that 'man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour;' and Thou wilt ever bless the portion Thou givest, if we use thy bounties as faithful stewards of them, remembering the poor, the helpless, and the sorrowful.

In laying aside for a while the accustomed pursuits which Thou hast appointed for me, I have much need of thy direction, lest those temptations from which the continual employments of home have kept me free, should render me unmindful of thy presence. Graciously assist me, O Lord, to enter on the present opportunity of recreation with a very thankful heart, to regard it as one of thy bountiful gifts, and to strive faithfully to use it in such manner, that my conscience may not accuse me with perverting, what Thou bestowest to render me more active in the

duties of thy service on earth. O let thy Spirit go with me, in leaving for a time the home Thou providest for me. Instruct me wisely and profitably to improve the days thus set free from ordinary duties, as means, in thy providence, of restoring faculties which have become wearied by long application; even as sleep refreshes bodily strength, or words of peace relieve a wounded spirit. And in this time of leisure give me nearer communion with Thyself.

Nothing can approach to hurt me without thy permission; nothing can be good for me without thy blessing; I desire therefore to wait on Thee daily for grace to serve Thee acceptably; fearing no calamity, for Thou art ever my Almighty Preserver, who wilt not suffer me to be tempted without providing a way of escape.

I beseech Thee to remember all travellers by sea or land, according to their respective necessities and dangers. Cause them to know Thee as a God of love; and let the voice of prayer and praise be ascending and increasing, wherever there may be a multitude journeying in apparent security, or some lonely path be trodden by a solitary wayfarer. And so keep us in this our journey of life, that death may be the gate of heaven, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the purchase of his blood. AMEN.*

* The addition of THE LORD'S PRAYER will be obvious.

ON A VOYAGE.*

'The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters.'—*Ps.* xxix. 3.

TO Thee, O Lord, I ascribe might, honour, and majesty. I would praise Thee, who hast commended thy great love to us in sending thy dear Son to be our Saviour, and who watchest over all thy people with tender mercy.

Eye hath not seen, nor hath it entered into man's heart to imagine, the glory of thy presence; but on every side we trace the works of thy power, supplying our wants, ministering to our necessities, and making our hearts to overflow with gladness. Earth, with its teeming sources of comfort or pleasure, tells of Him who hath made it fruitful. The sea speaks of Thee, witnessing of its Maker, who declareth, 'Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.' All created things proclaim the goodness of God, who formed them for his own honour, and for his children's good, that in their lawful use his beloved ones should show forth his continual praise.

* Whether at the commencement, or at any subsequent period, of a journey.

Through many dangers, I have been carried safely; and Thou hast preserved me all my days. Therefore I will remember thy former mercies, and greatly rejoice that Thou art with me still, in light or darkness. Let me never be faint or weak-hearted, but at all times be steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and fervent in prayer. And wherever thy providence may direct me, journeying or resting, keep me in remembrance of Christ our great Redeemer, who was ever doing his Father's will.

Fill my heart, good Lord, with unfeigned gratitude, for the many blessings which at this time Thou permittest me to enjoy in such abundance. 'Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee;' when, in confiding reliance on thy love and care, I leave my habitation, and those dear kindred whom Thou hast given me ( ), and commit my designs to Thee, with humble supplication that after a little while we may again be united in thy worship and service. To Thee I commend all my family; entreating Thee to preserve, defend, and bless them, and to restore me to them, with renewed energy for those relative duties, to which it has been thy will to call me.

Praise be to Thee, our merciful God, who holdest our souls in life, and sufferest not the feet of thy servants to slip. O remember me with thy favour, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

ON A VOYAGE.*

'When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee.'—*Isa.* xliii. 2.

O LORD, our holy One, 'who makest a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters,' mercifully regard all travellers by sea and land; preserve them from the perils to which they are especially exposed, and give them thankful hearts to yield Thee all the praise.

I acknowledge no power but thine, to watch over me, my friends, and companions, with thy merciful providence. I look only to thy love, for all that can sustain, instruct, and guide us, amidst a strange people, or on the wide sea. Many strong temptations may assail us for which we are unprepared; perils may be very near when we least expect them; a forgetful spirit may be stealing over us when we should be full of prayer and watchfulness. From these, and from every other trial, distress, or sorrow, I rest on thy mercy alone for deliverance; for vain is any other guide or helper, and none that trust in Thee shall be desolate.

Look graciously on me, O Lord, I beseech Thee. Send thy Spirit to dwell within me; to

* See also Two Prayers at Sea, p. 117, 119.

keep me faithful when there may be aught to turn my heart aside from the way of holiness, or to make me forget that this passing journey of life can never become my peace, my rest, or my happiness. Whilst health and vigour are continued to me, enable me to employ them for the glory of thy Name, and the welfare of any who may be profited by me. Make my behaviour wise, discreet, and guileless, ready to do all good things to all men as Thou givest opportunity, and bearing cheerfully whatever disappointments or anxieties may happen to me. And in all my intercourse with others, guide my words and conduct, to be such as become a servant of the most high God, so that I may neither give just cause of offence, nor bring dishonour on thy Name.

Exercising that prudent foresight in my affairs which Thou hast enjoined, I leave them all in humble dependence on thy merciful providence to continue thy blessing on them. Prosper the work Thou givest me to do; regard also those who labour for my advantage, and increase in them the knowledge of thy Truth and the desire to follow it.

As the heavens declare thy power and glory, may my heart and mind ascend to Thee, in grateful adoration of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God, eternal and unchangeable. Lord Jesus, through whom we have access to the Father, give me the peace and hope which rest on Thee alone. AMEN.

GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE.

'Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.'—*Jer.* xxiii. 24.

O LORD JEHOVAH, thy power and wisdom know no bounds; Thou art present everywhere and at all times; Thou sustainest the universe. And as thy glorious perfections have been ever the same before time and space were assigned their limits, so when time itself shall cease, they will remain imperishable throughout eternity.

When I reflect on thine infinite, incomprehensible nature, and the constant changes in myself, in others, and in all things surrounding me; and that since the world was created, day has followed day, distinguished only by the endless variety of those events which marked its progress, whilst Thyself alone has been unmoved, unaltered, and immutable; I am unable to express the wonders of thy glorious Majesty and might. Earth, air, and sea, are thy unmeasured repositories of refreshment and joy; and every season speaks to us, in varied language of thy unexhausted bounties. How incomprehensible is thy mercy, how amazing thy condescension, when Thou regardest the smallest wants of the meanest

of thy people, and art never weary of hearing their supplications, and of pouring thy abundant benefits on them.

On thy mercies in Christ Jesus, O eternal God, I trust for grace to serve Thee acceptably this day. May the Spirit of Truth guide me into all truth, and keep my thoughts pure and holy. May thy sustaining care be my confidence and safeguard. And may I be watchful in following our blessed Saviour, as He has given us his own perfect example.

Lord, mercifully preserve me from being more occupied with the enjoyment of thy good things, than with the abiding remembrance of thy bounty in bestowing them; and enable me to derive new lessons of divine instruction from all I behold, which may render me humbler and holier, more contented and more thankful. O guide my steps under all circumstances; keep me from falling; and suffer me neither to abuse thy gifts nor to forget the giver. Instruct me in a truer sense of my unfaithfulness, that I may grieve over the eagerness wherewith I have sought my chief pleasure in the vanities of a changing world. Turn my designs to nobler purposes, and my desires to more satisfying joys; and send strength and courage equal to every day of trial.

Holy Father, never leave me nor forsake me; but bring me to thine eternal kingdom, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

FOR FAITHFULNESS.

'O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.'—*Ps.* viii. 1.

O LORD, 'the Governor among the nations,' whose name is excellent in all the earth, prepare my heart to seek thy glory always. And though that is exalted above the heavens, teach me to find in all the marvellous works that tell of thy presence on earth, fresh sources of joy and never-ceasing occasion for thankfulness.

What am I, O Lord, that Thou shouldest be mindful of me, to keep me from the many dangers that are in the world, both seen and unseen? What am I, that thy mercies should be multiplied upon me day and night, that the blessings of thy providence should go with me, and thine angels should guard my rest? Thy Word, O Lord, testifies against me, that I have often only sought my pleasure, where it should have been the desire of my heart to consider the ever-gracious display of thy abounding goodness.

I entreat Thee to deliver me from blindness of heart; and in the contemplation of all thy won-

derful dealing with mankind, assist me to draw closer to Thee, seeking to learn more faithfully the great things that concern my everlasting peace. Almighty Father, instruct me in thy righteous commandments; show me the path of life in which Thou wouldest have me walk uprightly; and ever guard and strengthen me in it by thy grace and power.

Establish my faith more firmly and sincerely on Jesus Christ, the holy and righteous Saviour. I would wait on Thee, with child-like simplicity, to lead me wheresoever Thou wilt; not desiring to gratify my own will, but to know what is thine; and casting my whole care on Thee, in full reliance on thy bounty to make all things profitable to them that trust Thee. Give me a teachable spirit, which shall seek to draw divine instruction from every pleasure thy providence permits; that both my mind may be refreshed for renewed labours, and my heart may be confirmed in holiness.

I commit myself to thy merciful care; O leave me not, lest I fall into temptation. I hope in thy mercy; O save me from forgetting the Lord Jesus, who has ransomed me with the shedding of his blood. O God the Holy Ghost, who regardest all my infirmities, and all my spiritual necessity, sanctify me in body, soul, and spirit. AMEN.

GOD'S OMNISCIENCE.

'The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.'—*Prov.* xv. 3.

THE LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious; whose eyes look on all his creatures, whose love preserves them, whose mercy spares them, to whom all their thoughts are known, is He whom we worship. Praised be the God of our salvation, who permits us to call Him Father; and hath 'so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believed in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

I know, Lord, Thou art present in every place, beholding the evil and the good; some serving Thee humbly and heartily, some estranged from thy service by an evil heart of unbelief, some resting on vain hopes that cannot profit them. Their secret imaginations lie open before Thee, and none can hide himself in ignorance, nor say, 'Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice?' Where sin prevails, and evil seems to abound so mysteriously, thy grace is more abounding, and the good we do not see is work-

ing thine own purpose, to bring many to righteousness.

O Lord, incline my heart to meditate on all Thou hast done for me; on thy sparing mercy, thy watchful care, thy long forbearance when the ways of sinful unconcern have been pleasant to me; on the love of Him who suffered, the just for the unjust; on the pleadings of thy Spirit to bring me back to Christ. The objects of sense and enjoyment on every side show that our lives are precious to Thee; but these higher blessings testify that Thou carest for our souls, and desirest that none should perish for whom Christ has died. Be with me through the day, to rejoice my spirit with the consolations of thy pardoning love in our Saviour. Make me more sensible that Thou art always watching over me for good. Let the consideration that thine eyes are upon me bring comfort, and not fear. And from place to place, from day to day, in spiritual light or earthly obscurity, may I be exceeding glad that the Lord God is my merciful defender, and his Spirit my sure counsellor.

O Lord Jesus, my hope and confidence, I humbly rest on Thee alone for acceptance, when Thou shalt return to judge the world in righteousness. Then shall all the ends of the earth see thy great salvation, and know that there is One Saviour, and none other. AMEN.

WAITING ON GOD.

'My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.'—*Ps.* lxii. 5.

O LORD, heavenly Father, on Thee I wait, with humble expectation that in thy love and pity, Thou wilt not leave me to follow after the vain things of the world, to set my affections on any of them, nor to disregard my soul's salvation, through the sacrifice of the Holy Saviour once offered for the sins of all men.

I thank Thee for the everlasting Truth which declares that thy law is perfect, converting the soul; that thy testimony is sure, making wise the simple; that thy statutes are right, rejoicing the heart; that thy commandment is pure, enlightening the eyes; that thy judgments are true, and righteous altogether. Where then shall I find shelter in departing from Thee? Whom shall I seek, if Thou art not with me? I am thine; O have compassion on me for Jesus' sake, and pardon my offences, for they are many and grievous.

Lord, I fall down before Thee, confessing that I have done evil continually, even when there seemed to be little cause of self-reproach as men would judge of me; and that at seasons of some

apparent progress towards the heaven where no unholiness can enter, there has been much to deserve thy wrath, and need repentance. The evil I would not, that I have done; the good I purposed, that I have not done. Sin has mingled largely with my better thoughts, and worldly joys have hidden those which Thou wouldest send as the foretaste of heaven. O let it not be my deserved reproach here, and at length my just condemnation; that when Thou hast so graciously called me to seek my happiness in serving Thee, I have preferred the perishable joys that endure only for a moment, and pierce the soul with many sorrows. Lord, be merciful to me, in pardoning the sins I have committed against light and knowledge, against the convictions of my conscience and the counsel of the Holy Spirit. Assure me of thy forgiveness, that I may lie down under a sense of thy favour.

I entreat Thee for my family, my friends, and neighbours; be Thou with them all, to guide them whilst in the world, to keep them from the evil of it, and to prepare them for leaving it. In Thee may they all obtain, through faith in Jesus, the peace which none can take away. And may thy grace be shown abundantly in this place, to bring many to righteousness, who shall be thine for ever, accepted through the all-sufficient merits of our only Redeemer. AMEN.

GOD'S REMEMBRANCE OF US.

'What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?'—*Ps.* viii. 4.

MY GOD, in Thee will I trust; for Thou carest for me, and art ever present with me, to direct me in the way where thy presence shall be my joy and confidence, and the Lord Jesus my hope and consolation.

Lord, I am entirely unworthy of daily bread, and yet ever ready to presume that one day of plenteousness shall succeed another. I could not avert any one of the numerous calamities that may befall me, nor be sure of life a single hour, and yet too commonly pursue the inordinate desires of my own will, as if I had no need of thy support. Praised be thy holy Name, for all the mercies which have followed me in such abundance from day to day, since I left my appointed home and those whom Thou hast given me. We commended ourselves to thy care, and Thou hast not forsaken us. Thou hast been with me in all my journey, giving me richly to partake of thy good things, and to see thy wondrous works extending far and wide. I have

found health to enjoy the relaxation that sweetens labour, and safety where no arm but thine can protect. Thou hast long blessed my home with all that should render it peaceful and happy, and I trust thy Holy Spirit is guiding those within it to praise Thee with thankful hearts, and to love, honour, and serve Thee faithfully.

Continue with me, O God, to direct all my goings this day. Keep me all through it, mindful of thy presence, thy favour, and thy goodness. Preserve me, in thy great mercy, from whatever may be hurtful or dangerous; and if Thou seest good, conduct me safely to a resting place at night. If disappointment happen to me, let it not be an occasion of discontent; and if dangers either threaten or overtake me, suffer them not to shake my confidence in Thee.

And so bless all who travel with me, for Thou knowest all their need. Spread among them the love of thy truth; give those who trust in Thee an increase of faith and hope, and enlighten those who know Thee not, to see themselves as they are in thy sight, and to find redemption through Christ, the everlasting Saviour.

On the merciful guidance of thy Spirit I humbly rely for every blessing that may bring me nearer to Thee. For Jesus' sake, I beseech Thee to pity my unworthiness, to receive my petitions, and to pardon my sins. AMEN.

FOR PEACE.

'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.'—*Isa.* xxvi. 3.

ALMIGHTY GOD, 'my refuge and my portion in the land of the living,' permit me also to look up to Thee as my heavenly Father, who openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Thy glorious days are made for man, and stored with richest mercies, reflecting on every side the excellence of thy wisdom and thine all-prevailing goodness. Thy refreshing nights are nights of rest and preservation, telling forth thy praises, to whom 'the darkness and the light are both alike.'

Receive, O Lord, the praises with which I would close another day, a day wherein Thou hast truly been my refuge and strength. Thou hast conducted my steps to a quiet resting place. I acknowledge thy unwearied love, in that Thou hast not been extreme to mark what I have done amiss, and still preservest me from forgetting how many dangers I have passed through unharmed. Thy grace makes plain the

way of salvation through Jesus Christ, and vouchsafes many encouragements to preserve me from forsaking it. Compassionate my backwardness in providing for eternity. I linger heedlessly, looking backward on the journey of life; when I should be considering the last night that cometh soon, and the dawning of the great day of the Lord's appearing as the Judge of all men.

Remember not against me, O Lord, the sins and negligences of the day. Pardon the little gratitude I have shown for mercies received. Lay not to my charge the guilt of having strengthened Satan's kingdom in the hearts of any with whom I have conversed. Fill my heart with deeper penitence for my offences, and firmer zeal for thine honour. Give me the peace which they have who love thy law; send rest to my wearied body; and comfort my soul with thy presence.

Mercifully protect all travellers by sea or land, my present companions, my distant family and friends; and I pray Thee to bless them with a thankful sense of thy guardianship, and faithful knowledge of thy grace and truth in Christ Jesus. For his sake, Thou wilt send us all things needful. And to Him only will I look as my Redeemer and Mediator. AMEN.

REALIZING GOD'S PRESENCE.

'Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy loving-kindness and thy truth continually preserve me.'—*Ps.* xl. 11.

BLESSED GOD, Thou watchest over all thy people to do them good. I humbly pray that a due sense of thy presence and care may never be absent from my mind. Thy mercies are renewed day by day; O that my heart may also be renewed with every morning's light, to see thy exceeding love in Christ our Saviour shining brighter than the heavens.

When I look into myself, what great need have I to pray that thy mercies may not have fallen on barren soil, only to spring up with promise of the future, and then wither away prematurely, because there was no depth of desire or intention to foster them. Conscience tells me how often it has been so hitherto, and the remembrance of former failings is that of sins yet remaining to be repented of. From Thee alone can come the help, which will enable me to overpower the lusts and passions that are ever exalting themselves in opposition to thy faithful service. O give me thy grace, to fortify me against the false reasonings of a deceived heart,

unable to discern the beauty and excellency of the admonition to live as a pilgrim and stranger on the earth, desiring a better country.

Again I continue my journey to some new resting place, desiring such as seems expedient to worldly forethought, and expecting to find enjoyment, safety, and a welcome there. But this will be a vain confidence, unless Thou continuest with me, to guard my body from dangers, and to keep my soul from evil impressions. Lord, I beseech Thee to check in me that spirit of independence, which so habitually tempts men to think much of their prudent sagacity in laying out their plans, and little of an entire reliance on thy unerring wisdom and love to direct them rightly. Be Thou at my right hand continually, in all my journey to that abiding city whose foundations are thine for ever. May thy forgiveness in Christ be vouchsafed to my past unprofitableness, thy compassion bear with my infirmities, and the shield of thy protection be my never-failing safeguard.

Withhold not thy tender mercies from me, O Lord; let thy loving-kindness and thy truth continually preserve me. Graciously extend these thy inestimable blessings to all travellers; and draw their hearts towards Thee in grateful remembrance of them. And unite us all in the one sure way of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

AGAINST INDIFFERENCE.

'Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!' —*Ps.* cvii. 31.

ALL thy works testify of Thee, O Lord; there is no place where thy presence is not evident, and none where thy goodness does not manifest itself. The heavens declare thy glorious Majesty, the firmament showeth thy handy-work; the earth is thine, and the fulness thereof; Thou fillest all things living with plenteousness. To Thee for ever be the praises of thy creatures for all thy mercies here, and yet more for thy richer mercies vouchsafed to men in Christ Jesus, the mighty Saviour.

I sin against Thee continually, disobeying thy commands, presuming that to morrow shall be as this day, yea, more abundant, and thinking less of the giver of all good things than of their present enjoyment. Lord, open my blind eyes, to know the sins of forgetfulness that cleave to me.

Another day's opportunities of good or evil have passed away for ever. Grant that the record of my neglect of them may not bear witness against me in that coming day, when the House-

holder shall return to reckon with his servants. Another day's overflowing bounties have been bestowed; Thou knowest if I have sinned, in presuming, that as all things come alike to all, there was no distinction between the righteous and the wicked, or between the acceptable offering of a thankful heart and the careless indifference of a worldly spirit. When I forget Thee, my only guide and defender, I beseech Thee to compassionate my frailty, and to renew an earnest feeling of my dependence on Thee, equally when all seems bright and clear around, as when fears alarm or dangers threaten. When I am tempted to fall away from Thee, to cast in my lot with them who have their portion in this world, or to set my affections on anything Thou canst not bless; mercifully hear the Advocate for sinners pleading for me, and restore me with a new spirit of repentance and humility, of love and obedience, of assured faith in his all-perfect righteousness.

To Thee, gracious God, I again commit myself and my companions, my kindred and friends, all travellers by sea and land, those around me in this resting place, thy servants everywhere, and those who are yet aliens from thy truth. O be merciful to them all, and make them thine, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself a sacrifice for the sins of all men. AMEN.

GOD, THE HEARER OF PRAYER.

'O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.'—*Ps.* lxv. 2.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Creator, our Saviour, and our Sanctifier, to Thee alone should all prayer be addressed, for it is Thou only who canst hear our prayer. To whom else shall thy servants come for the supply of all their need? Give us all a prayerful spirit. As we are so prone to walk in a vain shadow, enlighten us with a clearer apprehension of our spiritual necessities; and as Thou art more ready to hear than we are to pray, let no disquieting fears hinder our drawing near to Thee faithfully.

Hear my prayer, O Divine Protector, when, at a distance from home and its dearest associations, I read the Word of everlasting love, and know that thy watchfulness has no limits of time or space, and that all whom I love Thou lovest also with greater love than finite beings can have one for another. I pray for them, and they for me; and to Thee alike we look, for Thou art at their right hand as at mine, to direct our footsteps safely. Amidst whatever may be perplexing,

dangerous, or sinful, teach us the way of everlasting life, enable us to look to Thee alone to prosper our affairs, and in every anxious thought, each for himself or another, to remember thy former loving-kindnesses, which have never ceased to flow towards us with unnumbered blessings.

I beseech Thee to keep my motives and intentions free from every influence that may lessen my regard for thy favour, as that which is infinitely better than wealth, honour, or pleasure. Do Thou elevate my affections above the perishing trifles that bind them so strongly to the world. Send thy blessing on every relaxation from accustomed duties, that by such means my failing energies may be renewed for thy service on earth, and rendered fitter for their appointed work. And let me ever be thankful that Thou givest me some work to do, which Thou deignest to honour, for the glory of thy Name, the welfare of others, and the health of my soul.

Be my strength, and give me courage to maintain the contest against temptation. Make the Rock of Ages my firm standing place, that I may be preserved from falling; and so fix all my confidence on that Rock, that no power may prevail to overcome or shake it. Blessed Jesus, whose I am by the purchase of thy blood, intercede for me, that my faith may not fail, nor my hope be disturbed, nor my love grow cold. AMEN.

FOR A TEACHABLE SPIRIT.

'Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.'—*Ps.* li. 10.

'WHO is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!' I will thank Thee, O Lord Almighty, for the many blessings which every day call for my gratitude. It is Thou alone who guardest my nightly rest from fear of evil, and thy mercies are renewed with the morning light.

I have gone on my way rejoicing. I have new impressions of thy glorious works, which never cease to magnify their Creator. I have been carried safely through perils beyond the knowledge or provision of human foresight to avert. Thou hast been my watchful preserver. Thou hast dealt very bountifully with thy most unworthy servant. And before Thee I would fall down, acknowledging that in many things I offend greatly against thy commandments; forgetting that Thou hast made all men for thy honour, and being more desirous to please myself, than to yield that homage and obedience which Thou requirest from the creatures of thy hand.

From thy continued pity, O Lord, I look for strength to walk in the godly spirit of a redeemed soul. Bring me from living by sight to living by faith; from the pride of self-reliance to the humility of knowing none but Christ. I entreat Thee thus to renew my spirit from day to day; and as old things pass away, to make me more earnest in holding fast the new and better hopes Thou givest.

O that I could always remember and consider, that Thou desirest nothing unreasonable or inconsistent with our fullest happiness, and nothing at variance with our well-being in the world; but that all thy precepts are equally ordained to elevate our joys, as they are to purify our motives and affections. When Thou callest, it is with tender words of paternal love; thy commands are only the measure of thy children's duty; thy restraints are our safeguard; thy reproofs the medicine to heal our disordered souls; thy consolations the true refuge from every distracting influence.

I commend myself, and those journeying with me, and others dear to me, to thy merciful care. Refresh our bodies for new activity, and put into our hearts pure thoughts and holy desires. And let us all wake, not to insensibility of spirit, but to ardent love and unfeigned faith. Thou wilt hear us, O Lord God, for Jesus' sake. He is our eternal Saviour. AMEN.

GOD, OUR PRESERVER.

'The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.'—*Ps.* cxxi. 8.

LOOK on me, O gracious God, according to thy mercies of old; for 'in thine hand is power and might, and in thine hand it is to give strength unto all.' There is none else beside Thee, who givest all things bountifully. There is no love like thine, in sending salvation through the perfect atonement of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Blessed with thy loving-kindness all my days, preserved by thy watchful care in health and sickness, guided and defended through many perilous events; I would still acknowledge Thee as my only hope, and entreat Thee so to reign in my heart, that at all times I may yield Thee my desire and confidence. And, when separated for a time from the home on which thy blessings have descended so abundantly, I depend only on thy paternal care, to restore me there again, with renewed energy of mind and body, and to fill with thankfulness those whom Thou hast united one to another in social affection. I trust in Thee

also to raise those affections, in me and in my family, from earth to heaven, that they may surely be directed to that eternal home where Thou abidest, a Father amidst thy dear children.

To thy mercies I commend my going out and my coming in, for it is only as Thou watchest over me, that they can be safe or profitable. Be with me wheresoever I may go, an ever-present counsellor and guide, to preserve my body from danger and my soul from sin. Keep my thoughts pure and holy, and my conduct unblameable and exemplary; that my association with others may never prove an occasion of offence to them, nor cause thy Truth to be mistaken from my heedless indifference. And when my faithfulness may be endangered, by the absence of a right spirit or the presence of ill example, do Thou, Lord, support and establish every good purpose which thy love has planted in me.

Dwell in the hearts of other travellers also, that they may look to Thee alone as the Author of their being, the Preserver of their lives, the Giver of all good things, the holy God who would make them meet for a heavenly inheritance. Where the Lord Jesus has gone before, setting us an example that we might follow his footsteps, there give us all grace to press forward in the days of our journeying, full of the glorious hope of immortality through his merits. AMEN.

LIVING TO GOD'S GLORY.

'Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.'—1 *Cor.* x. 31.

MOST merciful God, hear me now, I beseech Thee, as I remember how Thou hast loved me, in sending thy Son our Saviour to die for sinners.

Thy creatures wait on Thee, O Lord, for daily bread as for their daily life. Thy love provides for all of them in rich abundance. Thou sustainest our lives with 'food convenient for us'; thy 'wine and oil' are for the renewal of our strength. And so have thy many glorious works, which gratify the eye or instruct the understanding, their appointed use, to refresh the mind with new impulses, that it should not become wearied with overburdening care.

In grateful remembrance of these thy bountiful providences, in which Thou art now permitting me to rejoice, I would praise and bless thy Name; and entreat Thee for this further blessing, that they may be a means of rendering me fitter for thy work and service in my appointed station. When Thou affordest me a time of refreshment, may it be my part to make it also a time of in-

creased watchfulness against the sins, into which there is then unusual danger of falling. As every good and perfect gift cometh down from Thee, so must the grace to apply what is thus freely given be sought of Thee. Enable me, therefore, to remember the account Thou wilt require, as well of the pleasures as of the duties of life; and when Thou givest more leisure, enlighten my mind to more earnest contemplation of thy perfect wisdom and love, and to closer communion with Thee now, as I look for unalloyed happiness only in heaven.

And when, after this period of renewing rest, Thou callest me again to resume my ordinary duties, with better strength to run the way of thy commandments, do Thou renew my desires and supplications for that help of thy Spirit, without which it is impossible to yield Thee true and laudable service. Make me at all times anxious to profit by every opportunity of usefulness, and thankful for every measure of good resulting; and to Thee be all the praise.

For Jesus' sake, mercifully increase in me the holy fruits of love, meekness, and obedience, which shall set forth his glory, who hath redeemed so many wanderers from the power of Satan to the freedom of thy grace. And, through the righteousness of Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, may I abide in hope of the fulness of thy glory to be revealed hereafter. AMEN.

THANKSGIVING FOR BLESSINGS.

'Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.'—1 *Sam.* xii. 24.

LORD, Thou causest me to rejoice in thine unnumbered blessings, spiritual and temporal. Thou hast redeemed a sinful world through the righteousness of Christ our Saviour. Thou art a hiding-place from the storm, a shadow from the heat, a light in darkness, a guide in perplexities.

Graciously accept the offering of praise, with which I humbly desire to approach Thee, my God, this morning. I praise Thee for a night of safety and refreshment; for the morning light; for health, and strength, and plenty. I praise Thee for thy Word of truth; and pray that I may both read, and inwardly digest, and diligently follow it. I praise Thee for the Sun of Righteousness; may his glory be my aim, and the light of his example lead me in ways of holiness. I praise Thee for the Spirit of Truth; and beseech Thee to cleanse my heart from all its sinfulness, that there may be no dark recesses void of his light and influence.

Remember not in anger my sins of presumption or of carelessness, and be not extreme to reckon with me according to my abuse or neglect of the multiplied favours, which Thou hast given to be applied in serving Thee. Establish in my heart a more faithful sense of thy unceasing love and protection; and assist me at all times to commit my ways to Thee, that Thou mayest order them rightly.

Teach me the holy way that leadeth from earth to heaven. Give me grace to choose and follow, where Thou hast promised to be a helper and safeguard. Sustain me in weakness; and deliver me from whatever may prove a hindrance to my Christian progress, or tempt me to forsake the one sure and certain road, in which I may go on my way, rejoicing greatly, because Thou art with me. When difficulties are to be overcome, or dangers to be passed; if sinners entice me, or the sunshine of worldly pleasure blind my eyes; let me not fear to encounter them, nor doubt what my conduct ought to be. Thou, who hast done such great things for me already, art still at my right hand.

Mercifully direct my family and friends, and bless them in their bodies and their souls. Continue to our country and our Sovereign thy many mercies, and grant that we may be a people fearing Thee and loving righteousness. Hear me, O Lord my God, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

GOD'S LOVING-KINDNESS.

'How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.'—*Ps.* xxxvi. 7.

MOST gracious Father, who hast watched over me all my days, and crowned my life with mercies and loving-kindnesses; I draw near to Thee again this evening, to acknowledge thy protecting hand which has been with me through another day, and thy blessings which have surrounded me on every side. Thou hast mercy for thousands to them who put their trust in Thee.

Thy presence has been my confidence through many perils. Thou hast guided and defended me, and provided me rest and refreshment amidst strangers. Give me a faithful remembrance of thy mercies. I trust that those who are dearest to me have equally shared thy goodness, and that their hearts are occupied with thy praises to night. Thou hast filled my home with bountiful profusion, and many means of dispensing bread to the needy and solace to the afflicted. May I always take pleasure in assisting to remove the burdens of others, out of that abundance of which I may impart thy good things.

This frail body has been adapted for useful industry, and Thou sendest a blessing on the fruits of diligence. This corrupt mind has been made subject to a perfect law which can turn barrenness into fruitfulness, and of Thee cometh all the power. Thou art the wise physician, who healest the disorders of the one, and subduest the rebellion of the other. May I yield Thee continual thanks for health of mind and body, and never cease to mourn for sin through all my days.

I entreat thy pardon for all the sins and negligences of this day. Bring them to my remembrance, that I may be humbled under them. If, in associating with others, I have done or spoken evil instead of good, or have failed to speak the word in season that I might have done, lay not to my charge the guilt my conduct may have occasioned, and keep me more watchful henceforwards. Preserve me from being carried away by anything that might dishonour thy Name or Word. Watch over me, and those who have travelled with me, through the night. Pour down on us thy abundant mercies, and send thy Spirit into all our hearts, to confirm us in the way of everlasting life. In thy light teach us to see light, and to walk by it securely. And all these thy gifts and mercies, I ask only through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN.

Tenth Day. *Morning.*

TO OBSERVE PROFITABLY.

'Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.'—*Philip.* ii. 4.

THOU, O Lord, hast placed us in the world with capacities for observation and reflection, that by using these thy gifts in a Christian spirit we may glean profit from what we see and hear. In this I acknowledge the hand of an infinitely gracious God; bestowing his good things on them that will seek good in everything, and making plain the way of instruction to them who would be exercised therein. To Thee be the praise of all that leads our minds and hearts, from the passing circumstances of daily life, to look up to our blessed Saviour, who walked through them, but was not held by them; to redeem the time that cannot be recalled; and to give Thee continual thanks.

Graciously help me to remember my accountability at all seasons, and to live in the assurance that, as Thou hast made us dependent on each other, in bearing the burdens of our common nature, so in all our associations we may communicate good one to another, as fellow members of

thy household. Instruct me how to do this in the most effectual manner; by a spirit of benevolence on all occasions; by a seasonable word, an act of kindness, of faith, or of humility. Let me consider nothing to be common or unimportant, if it may be made a means of usefulness, or afford an occasion by which the better experience of thy will concerning us may be given or received.

And so may the fashion of the world in outward things, as it passes before me in various places, help to mature my judgment in divine knowledge, and elevate my soul above earthly hindrances. And may it be my part to know Thee in all thy works; manifesting Thyself in them to my heart and conscience as well as to my senses; and inviting me by them to set my affections on better things, reserved in heaven for thy beloved ones.

Bless every means of winning souls to Christ. Send thy abundant grace on my thoughts, reflections, and resolutions; that, being formed according to thy will, they may redound to the glory of thy great Name, the love of the brethren, and the increase of true knowledge of our Lord and Saviour. And may there be multitudes in every place waiting for thy kingdom, through Christ, who is the hope of salvation to all the ends of the earth. AMEN.

FOR MODERATION.

'The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.'—*Eccles.* i. 8.

BOUNTIFUL Father, Thou givest the seeing eye, the hearing ear, and the understanding heart; and in all the transitory objects of present desire, teachest us to perceive only fleeting shadows, alike uncertain and ineffectual. Thy love would lead us from shadow to substance, from the things that are quickly passing away to those that shall endure for ever, from earth to heaven. O grant me such divine knowledge of the instability and insufficiency of much that is highly esteemed among men, that I may not fall under the power of a worldly spirit, nor expect to find satisfaction where it can never be obtained.

All thy works are 'very good,' as Thou hast made them for Thyself, and given them freely to the creatures of thy hand, that they may honour Thee in them. Enable me to exercise such moderation in the use of lawful things, that they may never prove a snare to me; and to shun all that is calculated to entice my understanding.

affections, or will, from that one service which is perfect freedom. Teach me, in the strength Thou bestowest, to be steadfast in what is holy, just, and pure, before Thee; pressing forward to the prize of our high calling; making a profitable use of all thy varied means of grace; and looking for the supply of every necessity through the abundance that is treasured up in Christ.

May thy Spirit, O Lord, ever direct me in safe paths, where thy presence may accompany me, and thy blessing be with me in doing thy will. Let me wisely consider, that Thou hast ordained material gifts, that they may minister good to those by whom they are used rightly. And, following the way of thy faithful servants of old, in much observation, entire submission, and true humility, may I be diligent and exemplary in all Thou committest to my charge.

Remember me, and those whom Thou hast given me, with the favour Thou bearest to thy feeble and erring children, beset with numberless temptations, from which thy grace alone can deliver us. Bestow on us more grace to abide in thy truth, and to stand fast in the Spirit; ever 'looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.' AMEN.

AGAINST SELF DECEPTION.

'Remove far from me vanity and lies.'—*Prov.* xxx. 8.

O LORD ALMIGHTY, Thou hast called us into being, with rich provisions of enjoyment; but yet as accountable creatures, to whom Thou art pleased to commit many valuable gifts in trust for others, and many sources of happiness, which can only become so, as they are applied faithfully to the glory of thy Majesty. And what consolation is it, to be assured that life and all its blessings, time, influence, and capacity, are all so many evidences of divine love, bestowed that we may derive both pleasure and profit from them; and that Thou forbiddest nothing in the use of thy gifts, except the abuse of them to unworthy ends.

Be Thou, Lord, my guide, my preserver, my defender. 'Remove far from me vanity and lies;' lest, in the very fulness of thy bounties, my heart be carried away with enticing objects, and I forget Thee; or it be hardened against thy truth, and I deny Thee. All that the eye sees or the ear receives, all that the world produces,

cannot compensate for the absence of thy approval. It is only in thy love, ordering all things for us, and accepting us in Jesus Christ, thine eternal Son, that neither weariness nor distraction can be found.

In all the way that lies before me let no foolish imagination nor worldly desire prove a snare to me. Grant that it may be my security to know that I am in thy hands; and as I am enabled to perceive thy power overruling the varied circumstances of my progress, so shall I go on my way in peace and gladness, rejoicing that the Lord is indeed at my right hand, and the Spirit of wisdom and understanding is guiding me safely.

When parting from those dearest to me, we commended each other to thy protecting care; and now our prayers are still offered, that Thou wilt again permit us to yield Thee our renewed and hearty praises together. Lord, may we also be united to Thee more perfectly, become more zealous in thy service, and more faithful in our calling. Mercifully receive at this time our confessions, our supplications, and our thanksgivings. Let none of us forget the God who has dealt so bountifully with us. In thy great goodness restore us to one another; and grant that thy love in Christ may be the joy and solace of our hearts all our remaining days. AMEN.

FOR PURITY OF HEART.

'Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth.' *Ps.* lxxxvi. 11.

EVERLASTING FATHER, who art ever near to us, though we see Thee not, I pray for grace to realize thy presence, and to walk wisely and circumspectly before Thee in the light of thy Truth. There is no place where evil doers may hide themselves from thy searching eyes, neither can there be any, where even the feeblest member of the brotherhood of Christ is left alone and undefended. Praised be thy glorious Majesty, O Lord, for Thou fillest the heavens and the earth.

I earnestly desire that thy grace may have its perfect work in me. Thou judgest, not according to outward appearance, but in true knowledge of our hearts. Our secret thoughts and motives, and the hollow ground of every false show of reasoning whereby men deceive themselves, are open to thy sight. Look into my heart, O Lord, not in anger, but in mercy. Show me in how many ways it has been my unworthy part, to rely on its vain speculations, instead of asking counsel of thy Spirit at all times and under all circumstances;

to think favourably of evil practices; and to palliate what could not be defended nor explained away. Pardon the many sins Thou must discover. Convince me how deeply they are rooted, and how grievously I have thus offended; and put a purer spirit within me, to choose the better part that shall not be taken from me.

Let me no more fill up the journey of life, in practical unconcern or unbelief, in fear and dread of thy all-seeing eye and searching knowledge; but rather pursue it, as the possessor of treasures of grace, a steward of good things, and a bearer of glad tidings. Thou callest me thus to adorn the doctrine, and follow the steps, of Christ our Master. I pray to be sustained with the comforting assurance, that what Thou seest and approvest is not my work, but thine. And with these and other mercies, make me more humble minded, as having thy gifts in much weakness, yet confident that every good work shall prosper therein, if I am striving only in thy strength.

For myself, for my companions, for my family and friends, for the strangers with whom I have associated to day, for those I may meet to morrow, I entreat the guidance of thy Holy Spirit. Be with us all, to preserve our bodies and instruct our souls. For Jesus' sake, the all-righteous Saviour, mercifully receive my supplications, and send an answer of peace. AMEN.

Twelfth Day. *Morning.*

FILIAL OBEDIENCE.

'Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.' —1 *Pet.* v. 7.

EVER present God, the bestower of all mercies in Jesus Christ, for the honour of thy Name and the good of all men; Thou permittest us to call Thee Father, and carest for us as for dear children, beloved, and cherished, and guarded with the tenderest solicitude. Father, I rejoice that I may thus cast all my care on Thee, and know, that, in the midst of danger or distress, I am still secure, and need fear no evil, because thine 'everlasting arms' are my support. And yet more, I rejoice at this time, that in looking for the good results of industry, or halting for a short interval of rest from accustomed pursuits, to invigorate mind and body, Thou art also at hand, to direct my designs, that I may not be carried away by a spirit of independence.

Cleanse me, O merciful God, from all those miserable deceptions, of knowing to do good, and not doing it, and of knowing the temptations that have often overcome me, and not subduing every inordinate affection towards them. O let the memory of that vapour of life, that appeareth

for a little time and then vanisheth away, continually suggest to me, that to day only is mine, in which I can be secure of working the will of Him who gave me life; and that I know not what shall be on the morrow, nor what will then be required of me. Give me power over my will, to submit it entirely to thine; and not to think meanly of myself to day, and highly to morrow; but faithfully to guard against an excessive care even for necessary wants, and always to be lowly, patient, and submissive. May every day's cares and trials be borne in a spirit of thankfulness; and do Thou, who ordainest that thus I should serve Thee, give also the confiding heart to do so acceptably.

Let me never faint under my duty, nor be weary in well doing. Ever set before me the true object for which I live, the unseen storehouse where I should lay up my treasure, and the end of that journey which there can be no retracing. And teach me that, in thy overflowing love, Thou carest for my death as well as for my life, and that there will be rest in heaven, more than enough for every weariness.

To Thee, O eternal Father, I would submit every desire; to Thee, O Lord Jesus, I look for salvation; by Thee, O Holy Ghost, I have hope in Christ, who, having died for the sins of all men, has risen again for my justification. Amen.

FOR STEADFAST HOPE.

'In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.'—*Prov.* xii. 28.

O LORD of Hosts, thine eyes are upon all the ways of the sons of men, Thou showest loving-kindness unto thousands, and hast commanded thy people to be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honour preferring one other.

I humbly approach Thee, in hope of thy mercy to deliver many souls from death through Jesus Christ. And I pray that Thou wilt enable me to be like minded with them, who seek not their own well being only, but who are living unto Thee in thine appointed course. Bestow on me an obedient temper of mind, to seek thy continued favour, in that way of righteousness wherein there is no death. May I acknowledge the least of thy mercies as infinitely beyond my deservings, and thankfully rest on the influence of the Holy Spirit, to dispose me to use them all for the advancement of thy truth. Being faithful in whatever trust Thou art pleased to commit to me, may it be my earnest care to

'walk circumspectly, redeeming the time,' and watching in prayer with thanksgiving, that the power of the same Spirit may work in me to behave myself wisely and discreetly towards all men. Help me to 'abound in hope,' bearing, believing, and enduring all things; and trusting that Thou wilt surely bless every effort of thy servants to give glory to thy Name.

In whatever manner Thou mayest call me to bear testimony to the Truth, may it indeed be a willing and a faithful testimony, truly desiring to spread the glad tidings in which Thou hast caused me to hope, and in sure reliance that the grace Thou sendest shall never be wanting, to render the weakest instrument effectual to accomplish thy pleasure.

May the Holy Saviour, One with Thee from everlasting, who came on earth to do thy will, be ever present in my affections, drawing me away from unsatisfying pursuits, and filling my heart with some portion of that love, in which He went about, seeking the good of all men. Preserve me from every plea that does not rest on Christ, and from all designs that are inconsistent with thy Word. Give me more of the mind that was in Him; and in this mind may I wait for the coming of his glorious kingdom, looking only to his merits, for whose sake Thou wilt have mercy on me. Amen.

Week-day Prayers.

IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

Thirteenth Day. *Morning.*

GOD'S UNCHANGEABLENESS.

'I am the LORD, I change not.'—*Mal.* iii. 6.

ALMIGHTY LORD, holy, just, and infinite, the same yesterday, to day, and for ever; thy care is unceasing, thy love unwearied, thy power ever present. Every object in the material world tells of change, decline, and extinction; and all the prosperity of kingdoms, the influence of rank, and the magnificence of art, are but the repetition of ancient similitudes long since perished from the earth. But from the period when thy goodness created man, and the whole world for his use, through all succeeding ages, the same constant love which first called him into being, still watches over him for good.

Renewed mercies greet our senses with every morning's sun, and thy never-failing watchfulness preserves us in the rest and darkness of night. Thou restrainest the elements, that they may become ministers to supply our necessities. All nature, in beauty and variety, contributes by

innumerable channels to renovate our strength, to sustain our bodies, and to heal our disorders; and thy presence animates all thy gifts.

O eternal God, who changest not, enable me to view in thy mighty works, the indications of thy omnipresence, and the realization of thy boundless power; and teach me to perceive thy goodness pervading all things, unlimited by the globe we inhabit, yet caring for the life and salvation of each one of its numberless inhabitants. O may thy infinite wisdom exercise my meditations, and thy loving care my gratitude. May the life Thou givest be governed and animated by thy perfect laws, and the heart Thou hast made to love Thee be ever seeking thy glorious praises. May I go forth to day in thy strength, deeply sensible of the high privilege in which I am permitted to take part, of manifesting thy Gospel, by the help and direction of the Holy Spirit, in my daily life and conversation.

For Jesus' sake, whom Thou hast made the Mediator of a covenant full of grace and truth, and as we look to his righteousness alone for salvation, I beseech Thee to receive me and all around me, and to bless us with all spiritual blessings in Him. Unite us together as a house not made with hands; build up our most holy faith on the Rock of Ages; and make us thine for ever, in the eternal kingdom where we shall see Thee as Thou art. AMEN.

FOR TRUE CONFIDENCE.

'According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth.'—*Ps.* xlviii. 10.

'O LORD my God, Thou art very great: Thou art clothed with honour and majesty: who coverest thyself with light as with a garment; who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain.'

While each succeeding day, in its brightness and decline, brings with it a nearer prospect of eternity, let me not close my eyes in sleep, heedless of the warning to prepare for that change to which all others are but as passing clouds. May I trace, in every indication of thine exhaustless power and goodness, fresh sources of praise, and new motives for holiness. May thy threatenings appear more terrible, thy promises more gracious, and thy justice more admirable. And may the great Redeemer, who came on earth to take away our sins, be the chief and continual source of our rejoicing.

Mercifully hear my prayers for myself and for those whom I leave for a time; hear their supplications also; and control all our desires from seeking anything unprofitable or dangerous.

Nothing can separate thy humble, faithful servants from Thee, the source of all truth and faithfulness; and all my hopes rest on thy preservation and guidance. Suffer no terror to make me afraid, except that of offending and forgetting Thee. In a distant country, amongst people of a strange tongue, teach me to remember thankfully that Thou art with me there, observing my thoughts, and ready to supply all my need. If calamity or sickness should befall me, give me patience to bear them; for it is Thou who sendest these in unerring wisdom, and who art my best physician to give success to the means of recovery. Should the violence of evil men assail me, make a way of escape, and give them no power to harm; for Thou art with me, my hope, and strength, and confidence.

Another day has passed away for ever, but its memorials of good or ill are before Thee. Forgive the sins, the omissions, the negligences, that Thou hast seen prevailing in me. Make me sensible of their guilt, and humbled under their number. Give me more of thy Spirit, to reclaim me from unworthy pursuits, and from seeking to approve myself in thy sight as though there *could* be any good thing in me. Let nothing satisfy the desires of my soul, but Christ, the holy and the just One. In his Name alone I pray Thee to have mercy on me. AMEN.

Fourteenth Day. *Morning.*

GOD'S UNIVERSAL DOMINION.

'The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof.'—*Ps.* xxiv. 1.

ON Thee I wait, O heavenly Father, the bestower of our lives, the giver of all good things, our teacher, guide, and refuge. Thee will I praise, the God of my hope; who hast so done thy marvellous works that they ought to be had in remembrance; and who, above all, 'commendeth thy love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.'

There is neither peace, nor safety, nor happiness, except it be derived from Thee, who hast made the world and all therein. How many excellent gifts hast Thou poured out on me, and only required that they should be enjoyed moderately, and that I should apply them to the glory of thy Name. But Thou also callest me to serve and worship Thee, in my thoughts, by my words, and with my actions. Grant that I may therefore meditate faithfully on thy perfections; gather from every source of life and comfort fresh proofs of thine all-pervading goodness; be ready to

converse on the great concerns of eternity; and strive to walk before Thee in humble imitation of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, who, when He dwelt among us, went about doing good.

I commend to the guidance of the Holy Spirit my family and my friends, present or absent, my benefactors, and my dependents. Distance, though it divides one from another, cannot separate us from thy love, nor make us less the objects of thy providence. On these I would rely at all times and in all places; and to Thee would I address the continual prayer of a heart, conscious of manifold infirmities, and seeking always the abiding peace which cometh from Thee only.

I beseech Thee so to direct all my ways and intentions, that they may be acceptable in thy sight. Whether in apparent security or threatening perils, teach me to acknowledge thine arm sustaining, and thy grace controlling me. Save me from the danger of evil compliances amidst unprofitable company. Restrain me from venturing where thy Spirit cannot go with me. In watchfulness against temptations, may I have increasing knowledge that in thy favour is life; and in communion with Thee, may I be able to rejoice in spirit, that the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.

Through Christ, our ever present Mediator, graciously receive my supplications. AMEN.

FOR THANKFULNESS.

'The LORD preserveth the strangers.'—*Ps.* cxlvi. 9.

THE earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy. From thy throne in heaven Thou watchest over its inhabitants. Thou art very near to them. Daily Thou multipliest thy favours and pourest fresh benefits upon them. Every morning brings new occasion of thankfulness; every evening tells of thy Majesty and love. 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ,' for his continued goodness.

O Lord, hearken to my prayer, when I remember thy mercies, and think of what Thou hast done for me since thy sun arose this morning, diffusing light and happiness on creatures whom Thou hast made to glorify Thee. Refreshed and invigorated by sleep, I went forth in that health which is thy gift and blessing, to find recurring proofs that Thou hast planted in thy creatures a mind and intelligence fitted to accomplish great designs; and to be assured that Thou, the spring of all thought and action, art

mindful of the wants of all, waiting to be gracious to them. For me thy protecting hand has been extended; around me Thou hast placed a barrier which danger could not pass; and now Thou affordest me a house amidst strangers, in which I may rest and be safe. O permit me to lie down, at peace with Thee and with men.

Almighty God, preserve thy faithful servants wherever dispersed; and gather to Thyself many yet living in forgetfulness of Thee. Put into the hearts of travellers to cast all their care on Thee. Watch over their homes and those whom they have left there. Fill many hearts with grateful remembrances; when parents and children, families and friends, separated for a time, are again united, with praises to our heavenly Father, who has pleasure in the prosperity of his children. Bless especially those whom Thou hast given me to lead in the way of righteousness. Receive my prayers for them and theirs for me. Fulfil thy gracious purposes in this wholesome refreshment of mind and body; and if Thou permittest me a happy return to them, may we be occupied together with heartier zeal and diligence in obeying thy commandments.

O bountiful Creator, mercifully direct all thy providences for our eternal good; and grant that, through Jesus Christ our only Saviour, we may all be seeking the rest of thy beloved. AMEN.

Fifteenth Day. *Morning.*

GOD, OUR SOLE DEPENDENCE.

'The Lord thinketh upon me.—*Ps.* xl. 17.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our everlasting confidence, our eternal Saviour from sin and death; I beseech Thee to look on me, whom thy providence has conducted safely through many journeyings. Thou knowest my heart, how backward it is in praise and thankfulness.

Thou, Lord, hast made my affairs prosperous, and given me pleasure in thy good things, to restore energy to the mind and body, that would be wearied with over much application. Blessed, therefore, be thy holy Name; for Thou hast preserved and defended me from day to day, and caused my cup to overflow with undeserved mercies.

Lord, what am I, that I should be an object of thy continual care, who am ever inclined to think of myself and my temporal gratification, rather than of Thee, and thy favour and commandments? Sinful desires and earthly affections occupy thy place in my heart; and too commonly thy gifts are received with little thought of the all-bountiful giver. My days are passing

away in trial of thy long-suffering, and my offences are multiplied where Thou desirest fruits of holiness to be flourishing into life eternal. I beseech Thee to have mercy on me, and to pardon my transgressions, for surely they are very great and very hateful in thy sight.

Lord, increase in my soul the graces of thy Holy Spirit. New temptations are ever returning upon me, and my desires are ever needing to be raised above the world, and the passing vanities that are unprofitable for eternity. In every appointed duty, help me to sanctify it by prayer. If trouble happen to me, permit me some alleviation in prayer; should my course prove thorny or dangerous, may I persevere in the strength of prayer; and when there seems no cloud to interrupt the sunshine of prosperity, then especially may it be my earnest prayer that I may be able to bear it.

Lord, remember those whom thou hast given me; my friends, dependents, benefactors; comfort the poor, the sick, the desolate; and preserve our country, rich in mercies, rejoicing in the Truth, flourishing in order, peace, and industry. Be the hope and strength of all that seek Thee, and make thy Word powerful to convince those who seek Thee not. And may the Lord Jesus our righteousness, be more known, and loved, and acknowledged, as the only Mediator. Mercifully receive my petitions, for his sake. AMEN.

FOR WATCHFULNESS.

'Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims.'—1 *Pet.* ii. 11.

LORD, Thou teachest us that this world is not our resting place. Neither are the most desired things in it worthy of our pursuit, nor the favour of our fellow-creatures to be sought after, as if either could stand in the place of thine abiding love, which is better than life. Our journey through this changeful life should be as that of a wayfarer; halting at times, but only for a while; and seeking a better country, where Thou dwellest amidst thy saints and servants who have found it, through the merits of our blessed Redeemer Jesus Christ.

In this spirit, I humbly trust that Thou wilt enable me to walk securely all my days; taking thy Word as my guide and solace, watching lest fear, or deceivers, or a perverse heart, should turn me aside, and still having my face bent homeward and heavenward. Though a stranger in a strange land, let me not remain an alien from thy mercy and grace, nor be destitute of 'thy saving health.' As day by day some new objects

arrest my attention, and charm by their novelty, which are again forgotten as others take their place; let these remind me of the 'fleshly lusts which war against the soul,' and never satisfy, though they seem to promise joy and refreshment. There are dangers and temptations to day, which it is my present business to search out and resist, with all the energy which their power renders so needful. There will be others to morrow, which will require equal vigilance to detect, and equal grace to overcome. From Thee cometh the strength, and thine is the consolation. O send them to me, that I may be firm in the one, and animated by the other to greater perseverance in well-doing.

Thou Lord only, who knowest the hearts of all men, canst tell how entirely I need thy help and guidance at all seasons. On Thee therefore I must rely, even for the knowledge of my own frailty and unworthiness. Worthy I can never be; weak and unstable I must continue, except as Thou givest firmness, or sendest deliverance, in every time of temptation. O cleanse and sanctify what is thus alienated from thy favour; and unite my soul to Thee, as one with Christ, purchased with his blood, instructed by his example, and accepted through his mediation.

Lord Jesus, our holy Saviour, intercede for me, that my faith fail not, nor my spirit grow weary, all the days of my appointed pilgrimage. AMEN.

Sixteenth Day. *Morning.*

GOD'S UNMERITED MERCY.

'Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy.'—*Hosea*, x. 12.

O LORD, my Strength and my Redeemer, let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, be always acceptable in thy sight. Guide me in thy loving mercy: for it is only as Thou teachest me rightly, that I can think such things as may be profitable for my soul; or know the truth which cannot fail; or live the life of faith, looking to Christ alone as the ground and hope of salvation.

From thine infinite love, I receive every good thing that can make this present life a holy preparation for a holier life with spotless angels of light; and from thine unmerited mercies in Christ, I look for the renewal of my spiritual life here, for the pardon of my sins, and for the fulfilment of thy gracious promises of an unchangeable inheritance in heaven.

Thou commandest thy servants to sow to themselves in righteousness the fruitful seed, on which Thou wilt pour an abundant blessing; and in patience to wait that appointed time, when, through the riches of thy mercy, Thou wilt

gather to Thyself the souls Thou hast redeemed out of the world, by the atoning blood of a sinless, all-sufficient Saviour.

Give me, O Lord, a deeper perception of the grievous offences that keep me back from experiencing thy hearty service, to be the truest freedom and the highest pleasure. Bring me to Thyself, as the bestower of all that is excellent and profitable. In thy many gifts, may I perceive the good seed which it is my part to sow around me, by the exercises of righteous living, believing that the dew of thy blessing shall mature them for the harvest of the Lord, when Thou wilt be gracious to the faithful in Christ. I trust in Him as all my salvation, and through his righteousness alone I hope to obtain mercy.

Lord, establish and confirm in my heart this glorious hope, which can never make ashamed. As my sure confidence is in Christ, so may I follow Him; and by patient continuance in well-doing, have the testimony of a pure conscience that I have not believed in vain. Grant me the witness in myself, that in keeping his commandments I am loving Him, and abiding in Him, fearlessly. As Thou hast still spared my life for better things, O give me yet increasing grace, until Thou shalt call me away to be thine for ever. AMEN.

FOR HUMBLE CONTRITION.

'The LORD is with you while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you.'—2 *Chron.* xv. 2.

GRACIOUS LORD, Thou hast promised that Thou wilt be found of them who search for Thee with all their heart; and Thou wilt continue with them who continue with Thee. I know that thy favour is better than life; and because thy mercy is very great, I look for grace to serve Thee, the true and faithful God, entreating me to come that I may have of thy good things abundantly.

I confess that I have not sought Thee with my whole heart. A worldly spirit cleaves to me, even whilst I kneel in prayer; and my petitions are cold and formal, for it has not been my highest pleasure to look to Thee as the giver of all spiritual life and comfort. Thy divine image has been marred within me, by the love I bear for earthly vanities, and I am unable to pray acceptably for those graces which become the humble followers of our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

Through another day Thou hast shed on me rich provisions of mercy. Sickness and violence

are near, but from them all Thou hast preserved me. The dead are borne along the streets, whilst I am spared, to go on my way rejoicing in the strength of life. In many evils that abound where Thou art forgotten, I see the reflection of my own sinfulness, and learn new lessons of humility, urging me to more searching repentance.

Through many years, thy protecting hand has kept me in safety, and the Holy Spirit of Life and Truth has shown me the only way of salvation. I am thy child and servant, redeemed from corruptible things, yet ever prone to seek them again, and to find my pleasure in quickly fading attractions, which appear to the natural understanding so worthy of pursuit. Undeceive me, gracious Lord; and let not a corrupt heart keep me in subjection to what Thou requirest me to hate and abandon, as I would hope to hear the glorious words at my journey's end, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things—enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'

Receive me now, O Lord, as one whom Thou lovest yet, and whom Thou wouldest reclaim from the love of earthly pleasures that cannot satisfy, to find in thy holier service, all that can make glad the heart, and prepare the soul for heaven. The Redeemer from sin and death maketh intercession for me. On Him my hope shall stand securely, when all else shall be as nothing. AMEN.

Seventeenth Day. *Morning.*

SEEKING STRENGTH FROM GOD.

'God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;—that no flesh should glory in his presence.'—1 *Cor.* i. 27, 29.

LORD of all grace, the Giver of eternal life, look upon me with thy favour, in this journey through a strange land; and direct my footsteps, that they may not wander from the way of thy commandments. 'One day telleth another, and one night certifieth another,' that 'there is neither speech nor language,' where Thou art not present, distributing to the necessities of all thy creatures.

I acknowledge Thee in the bread I eat, in the light that shines upon me, and in the sleep that has refreshed me. Do Thou acknowledge me, O Lord, as thine in Christ our Redeemer; and help me by the Holy Spirit, that the words of prayer and thanksgiving, with which I begin the day, may not proceed from feigned lips, but from a contrite and grateful heart.

Blessed Spirit, who turnest many to righteousness by thy sanctifying power, be ever with me, lest my faith should fail, amidst the many circumstances by which it needs to be tried even as

in the fire. Let me never glory in myself, nor in any thing that may seem good in me; for no one can plead that he is righteous in the presence of a Holy God. Neither let me trust in any power for strength or defence, except as it proceeds from thy merciful hand, extended over those whom Thou hast ordained to yield Thee praise and glory by their lives.

I beseech Thee to defend me and my fellow travellers from dangers unseen and unknown. Bless the means which may be devised for our preservation. And keep us all from sinning against Thee either in thought or deed. Let us dread sin more than suffering; and when we rest at night, may there be many hearts thanking Thee, both for spiritual and temporal mercies.

Lord, remember our dear friends. Some are thinking of us, some praying for us. Graciously accept our supplications for each other. Preserve them from the temptations of the world, the flesh, and Satan. Whether their trials arise from prosperity or calamity, send them help and deliverance as shall be best for them. Prepare those whom Thou art calling out of this life for their great change. Extend the knowledge and the love of the One Mediator, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, through many lands. Increase the number of thy faithful servants everywhere. And for Jesus' sake, be merciful to us. AMEN.

FOR PERSEVERANCE.

'Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.'—*Gal.* vi. 9.

'O GOD of the spirits of all flesh,' who hast created us after thine own likeness, send thy Spirit into my heart, to conform me to Thyself in the exercises of holy living. Let me never be weary in well doing; but grant that, in godly sincerity, and with the testimony of a good conscience, I may press toward the mark for the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus.

At the close of another day, I acknowledge the protecting care, which has brought me here in safety. Every danger has been averted, every anxiety removed, every want supplied; thine everlasting arms have been about me; Thou hast dealt very bountifully with thy unworthy servant. Ere I seek repose from bodily weariness, I pray Thee to accept my grateful remembrance of thy loving-kindness, in preserving and providing for me and those about me.

Lord, pardon my negligence and instability, that at any time I have been forgetful of Thee, the giver of life, blessing, and salvation; and when, through frailty of the flesh, or a spirit of self dependence, I am led away from the true

fountain of all good, mercifully restore me again, with a more faithful cleaving of heart to Thee my Father, with truer thankfulness, and simpler dependence on thy sure word of promise.

How many years of past mercies bear testimony that Thou hast not withheld any good from me; and when for a time thy face has seemed to be hidden, it has been thy chastening in love, to correct what was inconsistent with Christian simplicity, or to prove me, whether my heart was given to Thee or to another. Surely it becomes me to be very thankful, and to say, Hitherto hath the Lord helped me; I will trust in Him, and not be afraid; I will praise his Name, and not forget his mercies; I will serve Him in love, and not forsake his commandments.

Wherever thy providence shall order my steps, may I rest on Thee in perfect confidence, fearing no evil, because Thou art with me, whom the very elements obey. Direct me safely, according as Thou seest good for my soul's health. And when disappointments or hindrances occur, let me never offend Thee by an impatient spirit. May I dwell continually in thy love, and wait thy pleasure without fainting.

Whilst Thou continuest to me the life that now is, may Christ be in me the hope of glory; and when his glory shall be revealed, may I be glad with exceeding joy. To the holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, be praises evermore. AMEN.

Eighteenth Day. *Morning.*

GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCES.

'The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.'—*Ps.* cxlv. 9.

THY mercies, O Lord, on every side proclaim that Thou art present; in thy mighty power directing and controlling all things, and in thine unceasing goodness remembering every creature. And thy love in Christ invites us to rest on Him as our eternal Saviour. How hast Thou watched over me through all my life; through many dangers, many fears, many temptations. And now also, thy sun shines on me, thy providence surrounds me, and thy Spirit leads me to Christ.

O make my heart to overflow with deeper gratitude, and fill my mouth with heartier praises. Pardon the selfish insincerity, that only remembers things received, and overlooks the unworthiness of the receiver and the wants of others. Grant me more of that devout spirit in which my adoption into thy redeemed family may excite more searching repentance; and may thankfulness for mercies, and sorrow for sin, ever accompany each other in my approaches to the throne of grace. In the coming events of the day, I know not the unseen perils that may lie

before me, what temptations may assail me, nor how to escape or avert them; but Thou hast perfect knowledge of them all, and I only need to be assured that Thou makest all things work together for good to them that love Thee. Lord, increase my love; and let nothing deter me from putting my whole trust in Thee.

I entreat thy watchful care over me, and those with whom I may associate. Be merciful to us, in keeping our desires pure and holy; and defend us from all that may hurt the body or endanger the soul. Unite more hearts together in the good work of Christian affection and obedience. Make our happiness to be where our duty is, and our confidence to rest on Christ, who so loved us as to give his life for us. Remember with thy favour all travellers by land or sea. Give them grace to perceive thy tender mercy in every circumstance that brings joy or comfort with it. Direct and bless those who are especially dear to me. And prepare us all for that time, when the journey of life shall be ended, and the traveller shall reach his eternal home.

Lord Jesus, help us to follow Thee now in faith immovable, that we may at length attain the end of all faith, our everlasting life with Thee in heaven. AMEN.

FOR DIVINE COMMUNION.

'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.'—*Isaiah*, xxvi. 3.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, our souls are precious in thy sight; and Thou art well pleased when our minds are stayed on Thee. Thou callest all men to salvation through Jesus Christ. And Thou providest all things needful for the life that now is, and for the life that shall endure eternally. Praised be thy holy Name evermore.

I have seen thy glorious presence manifested far and wide; regarding every creature, close at hand in every emergency, ready to succour every suppliant. The solitary labourer by the roadside, and the thousands who crowd the populous city, are alike supplied by Thee with food convenient for them; that in a contented spirit they may acknowledge their God and Father; or in abundance may administer to their poorer brethren, and both may rejoice together.

Hear me, O Lord, when I turn to myself, and find so much that needs reproof and forgiveness at thy hands; so many duties left undone or negligently performed; such varied forms of sin

and evil which have found a welcome home within me. Look down on me from thy glorious throne; pardon my offences and supply what is wanting; direct my footsteps in right paths; guard my lips, to be exercised in thy truth; and keep the door of my heart, to exclude every desire that may be inconsistent with the hope of heaven. May the love of Christ constrain me, and his righteousness be ever before me for my pattern.

Gracious Saviour, intercede for me, that my faith be not unfruitful; but that at this time, when so many evidences of our fallen state, in myself and around me, point to thy sufferings as the only remedy for sin, I may, with humble repentance and thankfulness, remember thy blood poured out, and thy life given for us sinners; and live as seeing Thee, invisible, yet ever nigh.

Merciful God, grant that many may have joyful experience of the perfect peace of trusting in Thee. Extend the knowledge of thy grace and faithfulness further and wider through the earth. Visit its dark places, and let the Truth shine brighter where thy love is known. Reclaim nations that are yet in error. Send forth more labourers to win souls. Instruct and comfort thy people, and gather them into thy heavenly kingdom from every land. O grant me the perfect happiness of communion with them, in the day when Thou shalt call me hence, through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

AGAINST VANITY OF MIND.

'For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.'—*Acts*, xvii. 21.

O SPIRIT of Truth, who teachest men the One sure way of life eternal, enable me to strive against the vain desires of an unbridled imagination, and to look to Thee with full purpose of heart, that I may know Jesus Christ the Lord, who hath redeemed us with his blood.

The world is not changed from what it has been in past times of error and deception. The heart is still bent on power, ease, or independence; the mind still finds pleasure in unprofitable studies; the restless eye still wanders unsatisfied, desiring more the further it penetrates; and itching ears are still delighted with flatteries as pernicious as they are empty. Whither can we flee from these corruptions, but to thy counsels of old, which are true and righteous altogether; and where shall any find God, but in the highway of holiness, wherein the wayfarer shall not err?

Again I have to acknowledge thy protecting arm, which has been extended over me and my

fellow travellers through the night past. The sleep Thou givest has refreshed thy servants; our energies have been revived, and our strength supplied, for new exercises of faith and duty; and the day has opened before us for good or evil. O Eternal Spirit, sanctify all our hearts, to praise our God in word and deed unfeignedly. Undertake for us; and let us not want the comfort of knowing that Thou guidest our footsteps.

Mercifully direct my thoughts and moderate my desires, to be submissive to thy will in whatever may befall me, whether of gratification or disappointment. Thy divine Word counsels us in all things to rejoice, and in this spirit I trust Thou wilt enable me to go forth to day, devoutly and hopefully, considering whom I serve, and at the same time humbly confessing many infirmities in the flesh and corruptions in the heart. Set me free from the dominion of vanity and pride. In all the work of my hands, or the influence of my example, in every talent Thou committest to me, grant that I may act faithfully, as unto Thee and not to men.

There is not a hope nor affection in me which does not need to be sanctified. O give me the sober mind and chastened heart which Thou wilt make holier. And as Thou teachest me to know myself, give me more understanding of thy surpassing love, in sending thy dear Son to be the Saviour of the world. AMEN, in Jesus' Name.

TO SERVE GOD ACCEPTABLY.

'Your reasonable service.'—*Rom.* xii. 1.

O ALMIGHTY LORD, who hast created us reasonable creatures, to yield Thee acceptable worship and service, graciously incline my heart to wait on thy glorious Majesty continually, with pure and undivided affection. Thou art always ready to listen to our supplications; Thou art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; and the prayers and praises of thine unworthy servants are well pleasing in thy sight. To Thee I come confidingly; for thy Word is sure, and thy promises never fail.

Gracious Lord, enlighten my mind in the glad tidings which concern our salvation; and make me more diligent in obeying thy commands, which are pure, holy, and righteous. And enable me to seek Thee faithfully and penitently, as thy mercies in Christ abound towards sinners. Thou art long suffering towards us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Thou hast appointed the lot of thy servants in different places, and with many diversities of out-

ward condition. Thou givest also precious gifts, suitable for the welfare of every one. Grant that it may be my anxious desire to know those gifts Thou sendest me, and my continual solicitude to exercise them as a faithful steward. May I be always ready to acknowledge my faith, and to defend the hope that is in me. Do Thou, the Spirit of Truth, speak to me, both to persuade and to convince; and speak by me also, to make my profiting appear, as the sure testimony of the excellence and reasonableness of thy most holy laws.

And I beseech Thee to remember the well-being of those, for whom it is especially my duty to pray. Cleanse their hearts from corruptions within, and defend them from temptations without; and pour upon them the spirit of a sound judgment, that with earnest zeal for the glory of thy Name, they may, as good soldiers of Christ, watch against the first approaches of sin, and in thy strength, prove valiant for the truth.

Lord, bestow on all of us a spiritual mind, to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service, according to thy word; and, trusting only in the merits of our dear Saviour Jesus Christ, may we be transformed, renewed, and sanctified continually. In sobriety and humility may all thy people thus serve Thee, as Thou dealest to every one the measure of faith. AMEN.

AGAINST FALSE CONFIDENCE.

'It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.'—*Ps.* cxviii. 8.

LORD, how excellent are the precepts Thou hast given for the guidance of thy people; and how gracious are the promises wherewith thy Word encourages even the weakest disciple of Christ, to walk securely in the midst of an evil generation. Thou leadest them in plain paths, and providest plain instructions on the road; Thou givest also an understanding heart, to beware of the dangers that beset them, and the enemies who lie in wait to deceive. And Thou dost assure them, that in thy strength they shall obtain a victory that overcometh the world. To Thee, our everlasting Father, be all the praise and all the honour.

May I be enabled to bring forth fruits of godly sorrow for all the multiplied occasions, when, in the very fulness of thy blessings, I have forgotten the bountiful bestower of them, and only thought how to enjoy them longer. Assist me to be more sincere in my endeavours to lead a faithful and obedient life, in the light of thy Truth.

Make plain the way of thy pleasure, which I have so often failed to discern. Remove the thick veil of ignorance as to the real condition of my soul, which I have feared to raise. Open my blind eyes to see thy mercy rejoicing against judgment, and thy promises of redeeming love assuring us, that though our faith be wavering, and fears may tempt us to distrust thy love, and dishonour thy Name, Thou art ever present with thy servants, to deliver them in temptation.

Thou requirest us to trust Thee only, and to trust Thee wholly; and I rejoice in this, as the earnest of thy love, which has never failed any who receive thy truth in godly simplicity, knowing that our God is a God of compassion and faithfulness, to guide the feet of his servants, and to preserve them from falling. I beseech Thee to impress deeply on my mind, that if no higher motive than fear restrain me, I can have no experience of the 'peace that passeth understanding.' In striving to know more of the perfect love that casteth out fear, I trust that Thou wilt be my sure helper, as thy blessed Son our Lord is my only hope and satisfaction. I cannot ask anything unless in his Name; and I would desire to offer all my prayers and thanksgivings, surely believing thy promises of pardon and life in Him. I know they cannot fail; and I pray Thou wilt make them mine for ever. AMEN.

FOR SAVING KNOWLEDGE.

'Let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth.'—*Jer.* ix. 24.

O LORD my God, great in power and excellent in knowledge, who orderest all things, and weighest the actions of men, give me grace to serve Thee in better knowledge of thy Truth and Righteousness. Thou teachest me good things, and showest me the way of everlasting life through Christ our Saviour, by the instruction of the Holy Spirit. Thou restorest my strength with food convenient for me, and renewest the powers of my mind by intervals of refreshment from continued application. Thy mercies surround me, ministering to necessary wants, and Thou art ever near at hand, to be my defence, and to direct my footsteps. I will rejoice in thy providence, and thankfully remember the events of another day, wherein Thou hast multiplied on me thy loving-kindnesses.

I entreat thy gracious pardon for all the sins and negligences of the day, and for my inconsiderate conduct among those with whom I have

associated. Be merciful to me, in turning me from the love of power, distinction, or wealth. Instruct me to search out my thoughts with godly jealousy, lest while I pray for others I should be myself a castaway. Show me what is just, pure, and holy in thy sight. Guide me with thy Truth in all circumstances of my journey, and grant that I may love mercy, and walk humbly before Thee. If thy goodness bestows fresh blessings with each new day, keep me from glorying in vanities that are both unprofitable and perishable; and let me glory only in this, that Thou hast brought me to know better things than these, even thy eternal mercies in Jesus Christ.

O send more light to them who are perishing in unbelief or error, and give more grace and humility to any who are resting with false security on the pride of human intellect. Open their hearts to receive the Spirit of love and truth, that He may guide them to Christ. And add to the number of thy faithful people daily, from every land, such as shall be saved.

May all whom Thou hast given me, my distant friends, and my fellow travellers, rest in safety, at peace with Thee and in charity to men. And may the Holy Spirit dwell in all our hearts, and enlighten the darkness of our minds with the knowledge that maketh wise unto salvation, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN.

AGAINST FORGETFULNESS.

'The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants; and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.'—*Ps.* xxxiv. 22.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, whose love refreshes our bodies with rest and our souls with thy grace, look on me thy servant, humbly praying, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, the Rock of our salvation, by whom alone we have access to Thee.

Thou hast sent a night of peaceful security. What can I offer, but thankful remembrance of the blessings which have marked thy paternal care, acknowledging my unfaithfulness, and entreating forgiveness of my known and unknown offences? And, when another day is opening, how can I go forth to share in blessings which it brings for all, but with the humblest petition, that thy providence may still attend me, thy Word enlighten my understanding, and thy Spirit direct my conduct to be holy and without offence?

Lord, I pray that my neglect of means and opportunities of improvement which Thou affordest, may not pass away unconfessed or unregretted. Open my heart to know the corruption that prevails over all I think, or do, or say; and

enable me, as having no power or ability of myself, earnestly to seek all my strength from Thee, that I may stand fast, when the lusts of the flesh, the fashion of the world, and the pride of life, are tempting me.

All time is thine; all blessings, all advantages of station, wealth, and education, are given to be occupied in thy work; all whom I meet are neighbours who need each other's prayers, and may be influenced for good or evil by my words or conduct. When Thou permittest me to see thy abundant mercies tempered to every creature, may I gratefully consider those Thou bestowest on me. May every lesson of humble contentment be a fresh impulse to deal my bread to the hungry, and every transgression of thy law be a new warning to take heed to my own ways.

Merciful God, who bearest long with thy wayward children, forgive especially my sins of negligence and forgetfulness; the sins that wait on abundance and leisure; those that at this present time are witnessing against me, and demanding greater watchfulness. Help me to redeem the time, to walk this day prayerfully and circumspectly, to consider my Christian responsibility as well as my Christian privileges, and to improve all the events of the day to thy honour and the good of my fellow creatures.

May the Holy Spirit teach and guide me all the day long, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

REJOICING IN GOD.

'I will joy in the God of my salvation.'—*Hab.* iii. 18.

'O LORD, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will praise thy name, for Thou hast done wonderful things.' 'How excellent is thy name in all the earth, who hast set thy glory above the heavens.' All thy works praise Thee; and I, thy servant, humbly desire to raise my thoughts to Thee, that I may call to mind thy Majesty and power, thy Truth and love, and with my heart and lips acknowledge thy faithfulness.

I behold thy abounding goodness, the same yesterday, to day, and for ever, watching over other kingdoms and other people, and in varied climates still tempering thy mercies to every need. The high mountains of the earth still point to Him who is higher than they; thy sun still diffuses light, and warmth, and cheerfulness; thy rain still descends, and rivers flow unexhausted, carrying refreshment to every creature. They all show forth the praises of their Creator.

O Lord God of my salvation, Thou hast dealt very graciously with me to day, though my sins and negligences have deserved thine anger. Help

me to know them more searchingly, and to confess them with deeper penitence. Give me a more grateful remembrance of thy pardoning love in Christ our Redeemer. For his sake have compassion on me. Forgive the sins Thou hatest; and grant that I may lie down to rest with a quiet mind, at peace with Thee, and in charity to all, rejoicing in thy many mercies. I beseech Thee to carry my thoughts beyond the blessings of this present time, and to fix my hopes on those reserved hereafter for the faithful in Christ. 'He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows;' 'the chastisement of our peace was upon Him;' and wilt Thou not give peace that passeth understanding to them that abide in Him?

O Thou, who art the help and deliverer of all the ends of the earth, mercifully regard those lands, wherein thy Truth has been obscured and thy Scriptures sealed, and where reliance on many mediators help to conceal the old paths that lead to heaven. Send forth the light of the Gospel, that it may shine brightly on the dark corners of the earth, and cause Him who is alone the Way, the Truth, and the Life, to be received in faith to the saving of many souls. O Father, sanctify them that know our Lord Jesus Christ, that they all may be one, as Thou art in Christ, and Christ in Thee. AMEN.

Twenty second Day. *Morning.*

THE FULNESS OF GOD'S GIFTS.

'He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?'—*Rom.* viii. 32.

O ETERNAL GOD, who hast highly exalted our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and given Him a Name which is above every name, let every knee bow before Him, and every tongue confess Him.

Receive now, O Lord, the prayers and supplications which I offer before thy divine Majesty; for his sake, who made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men, and humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death for our salvation.

Thy mercies have followed me every day, with new provisions and renewed motives for praise. With another morning's light, my desires are seeking new gratification from what may please the eye, or inform the mind, or elevate the understanding; and again I look only to thy merciful care, in sure conviction that Thou wilt not forsake any whose trust is in Thee. Keep my thoughts from forgetting Thee, and my heart

from being satisfied with what can only minister to present enjoyment, or bind my affections to perishable things. May all thy bounties turn to my profit, as they are used with moderation.

Establish in my heart the desire to do good, as Thou art pleased to send the opportunity. When I see young or old, poor or prosperous, diligent in his vocation as a good soldier of Christ, may I gladly rejoice in spirit with him whose heart is thus with Thee, and be ready to do likewise. And when others may seem to be offending against thy Truth or slighting thy love, may I pray the Spirit of Truth to guide our hearts in ways of righteous obedience, that the seductions of sin may not prevail over any of us.

Graciously assist me so to spend this season of rest and refreshment, that I may become more active in the duties Thou appointest for me. Permit me to find, in the due application of thy present gifts, the renewed strength and vigour for which Thou sendest them. And let me not fail to think on the time when Thou wilt inquire how I have improved these blessings, and what good fruits they have produced; lest I should then stand before Thee as the idle and careless, utterly without excuse.

May the God of Glory be magnified in every country, and the glorious Name of our Redeemer be the plea for every mercy. AMEN.

ABIDING IN CHRIST.

'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?'—*Rom.* viii. 35.

FATHER of mercies, God of truth and knowledge, who hast called us to a divine inheritance in Christ Jesus, I beseech Thee to receive my prayers. They are the work of thine own Spirit in our hearts. Thy mercies to them that abide in Christ are beyond measure great. Thou art everywhere present to protect them; and wilt increase the assurance of salvation in them that believe.

Now thy Spirit is with me here, among a people whose thoughts and hopes are strange to me, as Thou art present with my family and friends. I bless Thee for thy mercy, which makes known the love of Christ through many distant lands, and calls thy people everywhere to serve Thee with one mind and one heart, as partakers of the same hope in our One Head, thy Son, our Lord and Saviour.

At the close of another day, made joyful by thy many blessings, I pray for more grace to serve Thee in them, and humbly to acknowledge that I offend continually in many things, and

that there is neither truth nor faithfulness abiding in me. For the glory of thy Name, turn from me all those evils that I most righteously have deserved, and grant me henceforward to serve Thee in greater holiness and pureness of living, as Thou hast given commandment, and wilt give the help of thy Spirit in every place where thy Name is had in honour.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, no power can separate us from thy love. Neither distress nor peril, neither life nor death can overcome, where Thou art present in redeemed souls. Guard me, gracious Saviour, in all my ways, with the memory of thy perfect example of purity, obedience, and love. I rejoice to know, that in compassion to my weakness, Thou hast not left me without a Comforter, but that the same Spirit of Holiness, who descended from heaven on thy chosen Apostles, is present still with all that love Thee.

May 'the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give unto us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; the eyes of our understanding being enlightened; that we may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe.' AMEN.

Twenty third Day. *Morning.*

OUR CHRISTIAN VOCATION.

'I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.'—*Eph.* iv. 1.

LORD, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts, and art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and salvation, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Send forth thy Spirit, I beseech Thee, into many hearts, with power to convince and balm to heal, that thy Truth may be confessed, and thy Name be glorified, throughout the earth.

Graciously receive the praises with which it becomes me to remember days and nights made glad with thy bounties, and guarded with thy care. Now especially, when separated for a time from family and home, Thou still art with me, to preserve and direct me in all things profitable. Thou abidest also with them whom I love; and I trust that their hearts and voices are ascending to thy throne, with prayer, and praise, and intercession. It is of thy goodness only that I have slept in safety; and the same goodness permits me to go forth this morning with renewed evidences of thy love to men;

the heavens declaring thy glory, the earth and its productions made to overflow with abundance. 'Who can express the noble acts of the Lord, or show forth all his praise?'

Continue to me, O my Father, such of thy blessings as may be best for me. Teach me the prayers I make before Thee, that they may not proceed from feigned lips, nor from a deceived heart. What Thou givest me to do, may I do it with all my might; what Thou allowest me to enjoy, may I rejoice in it, remembering that I must render a strict account. Keep my mind free from evil imaginations, and guide my words with discretion and charity. Let no association tempt me to forget whose I am, and whom I serve. And if there be around me much to dishonour the One only Saviour, much unbelief or contempt of thy holy Truth; may these bring me more humbly to confess the lamentable short comings of my own life.

Be with all my present companions. Make our passing intercourse mutually profitable. Control our ways, our actions, and our desires. Let us fear no evil, as our trust is in Thee. When we rest at night, may we look in faith to the eternal rest prepared in heavenly mansions. And, as Thou addest days to our life, increase in us the graces of thy Spirit, to draw us closer to Christ, who gave Himself, a perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the world. AMEN.

FOR SPIRITUAL MERCIES.

'O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.'—*Ps.* cxviii. 29.

ETERNAL FATHER, Creator of men and angels, who hast given us life and all its blessings, I will make my prayer unto Thee. Thou art both 'the God of my life,' and hast made me to know the glad tidings of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 'Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee.'

Thy merciful providence has ordained my lot. Lord, make me very grateful for its unnumbered benefits, always remembering that they are bestowed for thy glory, and for the good of all thy creatures. I beseech Thee to look graciously on me, when, with firm reliance on thy protection and blessing, I seek refreshment of mind and body for the duties of my station. There is no place where Thou art not present with me, ever near to preserve my life, ever powerful to deliver my soul when tempted. How many perils are there that threaten both, under which I must surely fall, unless Thou art merciful to my helplessness and instability.

Lord, I must confess that my chief thoughts have been engaged in providing for the body more than for the soul. In neglecting the plain directions of thy holy word, the path that leads to heaven has seemed obscure and wearisome. And there is a restless longing after the gratification of my own corrupt will, equally condemned by the perfect law of love, with the sinful desire after what Thou hast forbidden. From both these cravings of the natural man, be Thou my gracious defender, that they may not overcome me. Spare me when I call on Thee, humbly acknowledging the ungodly dispositions that cleave to me so strongly. And though my love to Christ be weak, by reason of many infirmities, and there be hindrances from within and from without; though there be idols to forsake and lusts to mortify; yet let thy continual pity help me, thy Word instruct me, and the Holy Spirit renew me day by day, with strength to run the Christian race.

Lord, give thy holy angels, the ministers of thy love, charge over all dear to me. And grant that, ere we begin the occupations of another day, our hearts may ascend in praise and prayer to Thee, in grateful testimony of thy bounties, and in simple dependence on our Saviour Jesus Christ for everlasting life. AMEN.

Twenty fourth Day. *Morning.*

THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY.

'Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey.'—*Rom.* i. 10.

THROUGH thy abounding mercy, O Lord, I have been preserved in safety hitherto; thine arm has sustained, and thy love directed me. Thou hast been my helper on every side, to keep far from me dangers which I could neither foresee nor prevent. And thy Spirit has been with me, to guard my soul, and to bring me more faithfully to Christ.

In turning my steps homeward, it becomes me to consider well, in what manner I have passed this time of relief from the ordinary duties or burdensome cares of my occupation, and whether it has been my good part, under all circumstances, to seek thy approval. I have need also to inquire, if thy manifold blessings of grace and salvation have been received with a due sense of the love which has given them.

O Lord, mercifully grant that neither the commission of deliberate sin, nor selfish indifference to the good or evil passing before me, nor mere thoughtless enjoyment of what for a time

afforded pleasure to the senses, nor want of charity, benevolence, humility, or thankfulness, may be recorded in the book of thy remembrance. If my conscience should condemn me, do Thou, who knowest the secrets of all hearts, give me the grace of true repentance, forgive my offences, and uphold me with stronger faith to pursue my appointed course of life. The Spirit of Truth is ever willing to help my infirmities; may He sanctify me wholly; may his truth enlighten, and his renewing power rest on me.

In my further progress, be Thou present with me, and keep me from forgetting whose servant I am. Still watch over my remaining days, O blessed Guardian of thy people. I pray that my soul, and the souls dearest to me, may wait on Thee for preservation from earthly desires and corrupt imaginations. Let us be numbered with them, who are faithfully travelling homeward to their eternal rest in heaven. And when each one shall reach the gate of death, may Christ, the hope and satisfaction of sinners, be found and possessed; He the Shepherd, we the flock for whom He endured shame, contempt, and crucifixion.

O meek and lowly Saviour, teach me to love Thee better, because Thou hast loved me exceedingly; and receive me for thine own, when my allotted time shall come. AMEN.

THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY.

'We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you.'—*Num.* x. 29.

O LORD our Maker, Thou hast created all things, and graciously bestowest the blessings of thy hand on us thy children, to the comfort of our lives, and for the honour of thy Name. O Lord our Preserver, thy faithfulness is unto all generations, and Thou never failest any, whose trust is fixed on Thee through Jesus Christ. I will go on my way, rejoicing that the great God who made me is also the defence of my right hand, my guide and counsellor.

I lament that my daily thanksgivings bear so faint proportion to the excellency of those gifts and blessings, which day by day declare the praises of Him, whose mercies fill the heavens and the earth. Lord, remember in pity my corruption and infirmities, and let them not prevail over that better part, which thy sanctifying Spirit is ever watching to establish in hearts willing to receive Him. Amidst many roads through many lands, teach me to desire and to search out 'the path of life.' Thou wilt show it

me, if my face is set heavenward, in assured reliance on the atoning merits of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I am looking forward to meet the welcome, and receive the congratulations, of family, friends, and neighbours, again to hold communion with them, and to join them in thy worship and service. If Thou permittest this hope to be realized, I trust that in thy continued goodness, we may look with holier anticipations to thy eternal presence, when our wanderings shall cease, and there shall be no separation for ever. Soon the homes that receive us now will know us no more. But Thou hast prepared another home for thy redeemed ones, and the Redeemer Himself has gone before, to enter into the inheritance purchased with his blood. In his Name I approach the throne of mercy; for his sake I entreat pardon for the past and grace to serve Thee more effectually; to Him only do I look as the Lord my righteousness, calling me to follow Him now, that I may be His for ever.

'In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.' Into thy care I commend myself and those committed to me. May the Holy Spirit keep our souls from sin, and holy angels guard our rest. AMEN.

Sunday Prayers.

First Sunday. *Morning.*

THE MAJESTY OF GOD.

'The LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.'—*Hab.* ii. 20.

ALMIGHTY GOD, through the past week thy merciful providence has been my safeguard. Each succeeding day has borne witness to the wonders of thy love, and power, and wisdom, which in every place admonish us to look up to Thee, as the Author and Giver of all good things. Pardon, O Lord, my habitual forgetfulness of the hand that so freely bestows such blessings on thy servants. And grant that the contemplation of these thine abounding mercies may elevate my thoughts to a more thankful remembrance of thy surpassing love to sinners in Jesus Christ, 'the Holy One of God.'

I bow down before Thee, as in the presence of the great Majesty of heaven and earth, exalted above all that is glorious, excellent, and wonderful. Thou hast made me for Thyself, yet how unworthy am I of thy love; Thou callest me,

yet how deaf and insensible am I to thy entreaties; all that can make me happy, or give me freedom, are spread before me, yet I often turn from them with hollow excuses, to set my affections on vanities that perish in the using.

How can I approach Thee except in self-condemnation, silent and submissive before a righteous judge, who hateth all iniquity, and denounceth woe on every sin? Yet I come, for Thou hearest Him who pleadeth for me; and I have confidence to ask, because thy compassion is so great, that in mercy to sinners Thou didst not spare thine only Son.

The souls of men are very precious in thy sight. Have mercy on my erring soul, which has so greatly sinned against thy perfect law. Cleanse it from its many defilements, and heal its lamentable disorders. When Thou contendest with me, may the silence of conscious guilt show me to be destitute of all excuse before Thee. When Thou entreatest me to return and receive a Father's blessing, may the earnest supplications of a contrite heart be acceptable in thy sight; and a faithful and abiding sense of thy saving mercy in Christ our righteousness, fill my soul with praise and thanksgiving.

Think on me, I entreat Thee, for good, when I desire to thank Thee for the knowledge of salvation through the merits and atonement of [illegible]ord Jesus Christ. Mercifully grant that

it may be my joyful part to rest on Him, and to live by Him; surely trusting in Him as our Divine Redeemer, who has perfected for ever the One Sacrifice, by which alone thy justice could be vindicated and thy pardon bestowed.

O merciful Father, preserve me from the gross idolatry of a worldly spirit, and set up thy throne in mine and every heart, which the Spirit of Truth and holiness prepares for thy spiritual habitation. From blindness and hardness of heart; from vain glory, hypocrisy, and presumption; from everything that hinders the acceptance of my prayers; good Lord deliver me, for Jesus' sake alone. AMEN.

First Sunday. *Evening.*

THE JOYFULNESS OF FAITH.

'Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable.'—1 *Pet.* i. 8.

ETERNAL FATHER, the holy, just, and merciful God, whom no man hath seen, nor can see; I thank Thee for that Divine Mediator, who came in thine own image, to be unto us both a

sacrifice for sin and also an ensample of godly living. He manifested Himself to chosen witnesses of old; and by many infallible proofs, we know Him to be our all-sufficient Saviour, who is gone before to prepare a place for them that love Him. Though I see Him not, I believe the evidence of his intercession for sinners; and trust that He mercifully remembers me, though I have so grievously forsaken Him.

The rejoicing Thou sendest to thy faithful people is a pure and heavenly joy, which has no taint of earth, nor hope that rests on any insecure foundation. It comes from Thee, and must be worthy of thy Majesty on high; it looks to Thee, and must be like the exultation that is felt in heaven. O give me that holy peace and love, which is built up on the absolute certainty of thy revealed Truth, a message of eternal life to faithful souls, a sentence of condemnation to all who will not obey it. I receive thy life-giving Word, in sure reliance on the Spirit of Truth and wisdom to teach it to me; and I acknowledge its unsearchable mysteries, as questions beyond my present attainment which will be made plain to thy servants hereafter. In the light reflected from the Gospel of peace, may I discern those divine truths revealed in the law and the prophets, as witnesses testifying of Christ, and having their fulfilment in his person and administration.

Lord, assist me to live, day by day, as one redeemed from death by the boundless love of Him, who, absolutely pure and sinless, laid down his own life to obtain salvation for sinners. Now, in this my time of active duties and patient faith, I humbly beg the energy and steadfastness that Thou seest to be necessary for both. In firmly believing those truths to which the natural heart is so entirely opposed, may I learn to overcome every corrupt or disturbing influence; and in showing all good fidelity in the trusts committed to me, may it be apparent that my religion is not a mere feeling of impulse or sentiment, but that the power of the Holy Spirit is working in me to follow Christ as though He were present visibly. If thy hidden truths be deeper than human search or reasoning, how much more highly should I value the joys Thou givest now, as a foretaste of heaven itself, where holy angels are evermore praising Thee with unwearied songs.

All-perfect Jesus, there is no condemnation to them who are in Thee, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. In thy continued love, grant me more of that unspeakable joy which needs only Thyself to satisfy it. And whilst I live, may I hold fast thy great salvation, believing undoubtedly that if Thou art mine on earth, Thou wilt be mine for ever. AMEN.

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOME.

'For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.'—*Heb.* xiii. 14.

LORD, Thou permittest me again to welcome thy holy day of rest, (and to unite with strangers) in worshipping the same Almighty Father, who is ever conferring on his people some new mercy for their good. I humbly trust, that with humility and gratitude, with prayer, and praise, and intercession, I may seek the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit; to relieve my soul from the burden of sin, and to assure my heart that He, who hath borne the griefs and sorrows of all sinners, will not leave me friendless nor undefended.

O Lord, mercifully pardon my many former misspent Sabbaths. Give me greater concern for their improvement; and greater thankfulness for so invaluable a means of preserving the knowledge of an eternal inheritance, forfeited through sin, and of the way of restoration through an all sufficient Mediator.

I beseech Thee to bestow thy blessing on the tives and purposes of my journey. I trust it

has been undertaken in humble reliance on thy gracious support, according as my desires have been acceptable before Thee; and from thy goodness alone I look for a favourable conclusion to it. May this short rest on the road bring me to a more thoughtful review of the progress I have made in the great journey of life, and to remember that, though some loved habitation be cherished, as the home where our natural affections find their present exercise, yet that here on earth thy people have no continuing city.

In thy paternal love and goodness, Thou settest before thy children another life, and a better habitation. We are travellers all our days, looking forward to that eternal city, which thy love has built and beautified, as the promised inheritance of the faithful in Christ. Lord, be pleased to raise my most ardent hopes and expectations this day, towards the heavenly mansions where Thou abidest in thy glorious Majesty, watching over every one of thy household still exercised here in earthly duties. And lead me, with a contrite and believing heart, to yield my whole will and affections, that by thy grace they may all be sanctified. O that I could always regard the home to which thy love in Christ is leading me, as the precious treasure-house of all that can fill the longing soul, wearied with unsatisfying acquirements here, or harassed with contending passions; borne down with anxious cares, or

burdened with perishable wealth. Whilst Thou bestowest life, give me also more grace to continue faithful in thy service; being spiritually minded, and diligent in that Christian course wherein Thou callest me to fulfil the days of my appointed time.

Gracious Father, to thy merciful guidance I commit myself. Keep my soul fixed on Christ; strengthen me to follow Him now; and as the journey's end approaches nearer, manifest Him to me more closely. AMEN.

Second Sunday. *Evening.*

WITHOUT PUBLIC WORSHIP.

'For there shall be no night there.'—*Rev.* xxi. 25.

O GLORIOUS CREATOR, who dwellest in the eternal city which needs no sun to enlighten it, and on which darkness never falleth, mercifully hear the supplications of thy servant. Another day of rest and peace has passed away, fit emblem of an eternal Sabbath in heaven. And the veil of night is again spread as a curtain over the earth, hiding the light Thou sendest,

for a little time. Grant that the blessing of thy grace, though it may be for a season obscured, may return again, with renewed warmth and power, to make glad the hearts of many.

Thou hast again permitted me to day, in the quiet seclusion of a strange chamber, an opportunity of communion with Thee in holy thought and meditation, if not the privilege of uniting in the common prayers of thy assembled worshippers. And I acknowledge this thy mercy, with humble solicitude that my meditations and prayers, alone with Thee, may be an acceptable service, on which the dew of thy blessing may descend favourably. Lord, grant that the study and the preaching of thy Word this day, wherever its holy truths may have been read or spoken, may have come home, by the demonstration of the Spirit, to bring many souls to righteousness; to the knowledge of the true God; to the rejoicing in the same means of grace; to faith in the only Saviour. To Thee may the prayers and praises of all men ascend, and find favour and acceptance, through the mediation and intercession of Christ our loving Master, who prayed especially for them whom Thou gavest Him out of the world.

Lord, be gracious to me, in making my last thoughts to night pure, holy, and heavenly. Give me the solace of a quiet conscience and an enduring faith. Bring my heart to desire ear-

nestly the rest that dwelleth in the mansions of eternity, where Thou art ever glorious; rest from worldly cares and trials, from anxious fears and wearying pleasures. The Lamb sacrificed for all sin is the light that shineth there, and on Him alone would I cast my heavy burdens, assured of his unfailing love, and waiting for the manifestation of his second coming, to be the Judge of quick and dead.

Whilst Thou continuest my weeks and days on earth, endue me with wisdom and discretion to walk in godly sincerity, humbly praying for the light of thy Truth and the instruction of the Spirit of Truth. May it be my great joy to acknowledge that body of which we are fellow-members under Christ our head, some in more honourable, some in humbler offices, but none less regarded by the Maker of them all. Do Thou teach us true submission to thy Will, by the example of the lowly Jesus, when He came on earth, the Son of Man, to take away the sins of the world. And build up our faith on the sure foundation of his perfect righteousness. 'So shall we ever be with the Lord,' who hath redeemed us to Himself. AMEN.

Third Sunday. *Morning.*

HOLY SCRIPTURE OUR GUIDE.

'Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.'—*Rom.* xv. 4.

O GOD of infinite goodness, who hast given us thy Holy Scriptures, to teach the knowledge of everlasting life, and of all things which are profitable for instruction in righteousness, I beseech Thee for needful grace to reverence them according to their inestimable importance. May I acknowledge the inspired Book which is the revelation of thy Will to men, to be perfect, as *all* thy works are. May I read it with the deepest personal interest, as showing the just sentence of condemnation against myself, and the wonderful redemption by which that sentence is reversed, and pardon obtained. I dare not neglect so great salvation; help me therefore to seek truer knowledge of my sinfulness, with wholesome fear; and when thy mercy entreats me to come hopefully, let thankful love subdue my fears, because that mercy hath devised a sinless ransom for my soul.

Regarding the inspired Word as the testament of my Lord and Saviour, may I prize it beyond the richest legacy ever left to mankind; as the Gospel of glad tidings, may I joyfully embrace the blessed means of reconciliation it unfolds; and as it is indeed the holiest of all books, may its perfect precepts and bright examples direct me through the Spirit, both to become holy and to continue faithful.

And as there are many things therein hard to be understood, which 'they that are unlearned and unstable wrest unto their own destruction,' let me never seek to glean instruction from its pages except by the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit, enabling me to read to my soul's profit instead of its undoing. Make me diligent to learn my duty from the plainer and more obvious portions of thy Word, rather than to search out, in vain expectation, those hard things, by which thine infinite wisdom shows the littleness of *our* wisdom, that we may have stronger faith. May the sublimity of its mysteries bring down the loftiness of all self-conceit, and the simple truths of Gospel salvation draw me to embrace them with the teachableness of a little child.

Lord, instruct my mind to apprehend its precepts, my thoughts to consider thine attributes, my heart to know and lament the guilt that lies upon me, and my lips to speak thy praises. Mercifully direct my understanding to speak of

thine unchangeable truth wisely and discreetly, that I may be ready to give an answer to every-one of the hope that is in me; and let me never be ashamed of that hope, nor shrink from professing it before men. If thy Spirit be indeed with me I shall not read in vain; my meditations will suggest my prayers, and my prayers will find acceptance at the throne of grace; through Him, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath taught us to pray, and in whose prevailing Name I beseech Thee to hear me. AMEN.

Third Sunday. *Evening.*

SPIRITUAL WORSHIP.

'And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you.'—*Ezek.* xx. 20.

BLESSED GOD, thy holy Sabbaths are a sign to us, that thy people may learn therefrom to know Thee better, and be continually admonished that Thou reignest over all, supreme, omnipotent, and merciful. Thou desirest to be honoured in them with a pure and holy worship; and dost promise to bless the assembling together of thy children; to hear their prayers, and to bring them into the way of everlasting life,

through the merits of thy dear Son, our blessed Redeemer Jesus Christ.

Mercifully regard thy servant, and other strangers in this place, who, remembering thy presence in the midst of us, desire to offer Thee grateful thanks for thy continual goodness which has followed us in our journey, and our earnest supplications for pardon and grace. Unite our hearts to Thyself in fervent devotion, that with true repentance and unclouded faith we may obtain the consolations of thy love. Endue us with a Sabbath spirit, to consider joyfully, through the day Thou hast given for divine instruction and worship, how great help is thus afforded us in overcoming the worldly influences which cleave so strongly to our week-day associations. Teach us to find, in this day of spiritual refreshment, a safe refuge from whatever has disturbed our peace, or caused needless alarms, or led us to forget our dependence on thy loving-kindness. Let the remembrance of thy gracious invitation to cast all our care on Thee, bring peace to our mind, from the toil and labour spent in seeking things which cannot satisfy when possessed, or from those burdens which the eager pursuit of pleasure or ease bind upon us. From these our dangers, from all that may pervert our affections, and from our manifold infirmities, I humbly entreat the Holy Spirit to be our mighty defender and preserver.

The heavenly rest Thou hast reserved for thy beloved is a rest that the world knows not of, neither can its blessings be realized, unless Thou givest a heavenly mind and understanding, to look beyond these empty shadows that pass among us for substance. I pray, that those mercies Thou hast bestowed on me, for thy honour and my own well-being, may never be abused, and that I may not set my heart on them, but look in faith and hope towards the eternal city, where 'the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light' of thy glory.

Make the reading of thy Word, the preaching of thy Truth, and the ordinances of Grace, through the Holy Spirit, effectual for sanctification, in all places where few or many may have met together to serve and honour Thee. Bless also the solitary prayers and the joyful praises offered to Thee, where the true worship of the only Saviour has no public expression. Enlighten all nations, to see in Christ the fulness of salvation complete in Himself. Let thy Truth mightily prevail against every error, and the Lord alone be magnified.

'I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.' 'Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.' AMEN, through Jesus Christ.

FOR INCREASE OF TRUE RELIGION.

'That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.'—1 *Cor.* ii. 5.

ETERNAL GOD, thy bountiful providence is shown, under every circumstance by which the life Thou givest is preserved and made subservient for our common good. Thou dost not leave us without the witness in ourselves that we are Thine; and in great compassion Thou art ever ready to answer our prayers, and to further every effort to exercise wisely and discreetly the graces Thou bestowest. Help me to perceive with thankfulness the many calls, that every day brings with it, to acknowledge thy unwearied care in providing for our necessities. And grant that I may know the excellency of those many varied gifts, wherewith Thou dost require me to worship Thee, and be diligent in improving them, assured that Thou wilt receive as acceptable service the faithful endeavour to honour thy Name, according as Thou dost afford means and occasion for thy praise.

When blessed with the privilege of joining in thy public worship with those whose hopes are fixed on Christ alone for salvation, I have too

often overlooked the great treasure thus conferred. O Lord, lay not to my charge the guilt of being a mere formal and insincere worshipper. Receive now my prayers, as they may be offered in simple reliance on Him who gave Himself a willing sacrifice for the sins of all men. Hear me when I call on Thee in private, in firm dependence on the all-sufficient merits and intercession of our Saviour; and, drawing near with humble boldness, make my petition for all good that shall be to my profit, for a daily measure of grace to serve Thee with a true heart, and for thy daily support of this frail and perishing body.

Lord, preserve me from all uncharitable and self-sufficient thoughts; and where I perceive many vain devices condemned by the Holy Scriptures, teach me to pray with deeper humility, both for myself and for others. Grant that I may be enabled to walk faithfully in the light Thou hast in mercy given. Raise up amongst the multitudes who are wandering in darkness and error, an earnest spirit of inquiry to seek the One sure way of everlasting life. Cleanse thine ancient Churches from every invention that sullies the pure doctrine of the Truth as it is in Jesus; and increase far and wide the knowledge of our God and Saviour, all-powerful to atone, all-merciful to receive.

May the Holy Spirit instruct and guide thy

people, wherever they may assemble in thy Name to day. Give great success to the ordinances of public worship and the preaching of thy Word. Remember that land, where I trust my family and friends are serving Thee. And I pray, that thy mercies vouchsafed to sinful men may come home to many hearts with unfeigned repentance and ardent love.

O Lord Almighty, Thou wilt be glorified, in our pleading no other ground of acceptance than this, that Christ was crucified, the just for the unjust. For his sake, and through his merits alone, I beseech Thee to have compassion on me a sinner. AMEN.

Fourth Sunday. *Evening.*

CHRIST, THE ONE MEDIATOR.

'Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.'—1 *Cor.* i. 24.

O LORD our God, Thou knowest the thoughts of the wise, that they are but vain. The wisdom of the world is foolishness with Thee, and the carnal mind is enmity against Thee. There are many devices in men's hearts which lead them away from Thee; and whilst they lean

to their own understanding, they do but trust a helpless guide, and walk on in vanity. Lord, send thy good Spirit to those who are in error, to convince them of sin, and that our divine Saviour Jesus Christ is both the power and the wisdom of God, to their pardon and salvation.

'Give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.' I am ever doing the things I would not, and find the law that is in my members is continually lusting against the Spirit, and keeping me a stranger to that love wherewith Thou desirest me to serve Thee. Thou hast seen how little I have been concerned to keep thy chosen day holy to Thee, who hast so greatly blessed it for righteous instruction, and who dost invite us to a nearer communion with Thyself, both in private study of the Word of Life, and in the Ordinances of a pure and scriptural worship. And I lament that so many, like myself, are caring more for the welfare of the body than the soul, and resting from labour but not from worldliness. The day of grace and blessing to mankind has been dishonoured with vain imaginations; and how many are there, Christians in profession, whose thoughts have been far from Thee, weary of the Sabbath and its gentle restraints, or only planning out to morrow's pleasures.

Lord, I pray earnestly to be delivered from the dominion of the law of sin and death. O

be Thou my helper, and then shall I find that what is impossible with men is possible with Thee; even to overcome the world, and to love Thee, because Thou hast first loved me. Let thy Will be mine, and thy commands my law in all things. What Thou lovest, that may I follow without fear; and what Thou hatest, that may I steadfastly resist. Govern all my thoughts and affections, that they may be purified by the hope that is in Christ Jesus. Sustain me when I am ready to fall; give me more strength when I stand; and make me bold to confess Him before men whenever thy providence may call me.

Pour out thy saving grace on all congregations of thy faithful servants, who have worshipped Thee this day in spirit and truth, and confirm them in holiness by all the labours of their pastors and teachers. Send forth a spirit of repentance and amendment amongst those who have profaned thy day, or are living without Thee in the world; that they may think on their souls with trembling, and seek earnestly to know how they may be saved in the day when Thou shalt reckon with them. Lord, have mercy on them, and [illegible] the One only way of sal- [illegible] of Jesus; mercifully [illegible]nt, that we all being [illegible] of guilt, may be thine [illegible] of glory. AMEN.

Sunday at Sea. *Morning.*

'Let the heaven and earth praise him, the sea, and every thing that moveth therein.'—*Ps.* lxix. 34.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Lord of heaven and earth, thy Spirit 'moved upon the face of the waters,' before the earth was separated from them; and when Thou didst gather the waters together, and all thy works of creation were ended, behold everything 'was very good.' Thy bountiful provisions for man, for his wants, his welfare, and his preservation, were perfect and admirable; and Thou didst give them freely, to be for thy praise and honour. May I yield Thee unfeigned thanks with all my heart and understanding.

Through each day, Thou causest us to rejoice in the consciousness of thy care and protection, making a pathway over the wide sea, and carrying us onward to our desired haven; and every night thy ministering angels watch over our progress, and still conduct us while our bodies rest in sleep. The deep waters may threaten to overwhelm us, but thy powerful arm restrains them; the furious storm fills brave hearts with terror, or makes many homes desolate, but it passes by and leaves us joyful in thy mercies.

I pray for a favourable issue on this voyage to all concerned in it. Give such success to our designs as may be profitable for us; and bring us

to thy throne with deeper humility, for grace to accomplish the good Thou wouldest have us seek in them. Be in the midst of us in our waiting on Thee to day, and unite our hearts together in thy worship. Thou carest for all; and when we experience how greatly thy mercies are multiplied on us, it well becomes us to pray for a more thankful and a more contrite spirit.

Gracious Lord, in love to my soul, make me more concerned to live in earnest remembrance of our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, 'the Lord of Glory,' who came down from heaven to bear the sins of many. May the Holy Spirit both teach and comfort me. In solitude, may thy written Word speak to me with double effect, showing me what I am, and what I 'ought to be in all holy conversation and godliness;' instructing me in the way that is better than any; and sustaining me with godly hope that none can weaken. I do not hear my Redeemer's voice saying, 'It is I, be not afraid;' but I know that He pleads for all who confide in Him; and I trust that through the efficacy of his perfect atonement, my faith may never fail, and that at the last day I may possess unspeakable joy in beholding Him.

For his sake, 'Jesus Christ the righteous,' our 'Advocate with the Father,' mercifully receive these my supplications. AMEN.

'The LORD, which maketh a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters.'—*Isa.* xliii. 16.

MERCIFUL GOD, whose Majesty and power are shown in all thy works; hear me, I beseech Thee, on the wide sea, where we have passed to day securely. Fill the hearts of all whom Thou hast thus preserved, with thankfulness. Some are occupied in their lawful calling; some seeking renewed health, or the acquisition of knowledge which may elevate the mind and understanding; others may be carrying to distant countries the Gospel message. Be gracious to them all; and especially remember us, a few strangers pursuing our way in company, and looking to thy mercies in Christ our Saviour, for a prosperous issue to our voyage. Thou makest a path for us in the mighty waters; and Thee we acknowledge to be our only guardian.

I humbly entreat Thee favourably to receive the prayers and thanksgivings of thy servants this day, in whatever place they may have been offered. If but two or three are gathered together in thy Name, we are assured that Thou wilt be in the midst of them. And where only some passing travellers have united in supplication to Thee, I believe that thy promises of grace will be fulfilled to them, no less than where many

united voices of praise have ascended to thy throne, from thousands who throng the Churches of thy Truth throughout the world.

Lord, make me anxious that the time being should not pass away without its proper use and improvement. I would worship Thee at all times, not with the lips only, but with the heart and affections. And when the magnitude and beauty of thy works excite my wonder, and fill me with awe and reverence; give me the grace to see Thee in them all, and to bless thy Name, who hast made all things well.

Night is covering the deep with its dark shadows; thy glorious heavens are veiled from our eyes; and there is but a little to separate us from death. But thy footsteps on the waters are not known; and though dangers may seem to threaten, there is help and deliverance through thy mercy. 'When Thou givest quietness, who then can make trouble?' 'In thy favour is life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.'

Lord, undertake for me, for those with me, and for others dear to us. Do for us above all that we can ask or think, as our trust is in thy faithful promises. Thy love in Christ will direct and preserve thy servants who believe in Him. And when the earth and the sea shall give up their dead, Thou wilt welcome all who have fallen asleep in Him, into everlasting habitations. AMEN.

Incidental Prayers.

MORNING THANKSGIVING.

'Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.'—*Ps.* cxlv. 16.

I WILL ever praise Thee, O Lord our continual Benefactor, who hast dealt so mercifully with me, and caused me to rejoice in the unclouded brightness of thy many blessings. When Thou hidest Thy face, we are troubled; and again when Thou openest thy hand, we are filled with good; the shadows pass away like a morning cloud, and Thou again revealest Thyself as a Father whose compassions fail not.

Thy overflowing benefits, thy never ceasing mercies, the riches of thy loving-kindness, are freely bestowed on many who too commonly forget the Giver. And how have they often been thus received by me, on whom Thou hast conferred them so graciously? Lord, do not condemn me, though I deserve to be disowned by Thee. Have compassion on my impatient disposition; turn

away thine anger, and let not the effect of sin be to leave me in deeper forgetfulness.

By the many glorious manifestations of thy power, wisdom, and goodness, teach me to know more assuredly how poor and helpless, how ignorant and unstable I am. And as all thy works, however full of wonder and of beauty, are but as nothing before the Majesty of thy glory; so let me learn from them, that all the much desired things of this world, for which we toil and labour, can neither satisfy the eye with seeing, nor fill the ear by listening, nor stand excused before Thee when the sun of life is setting.

In shower or sunshine, in storm or calmness, may I perceive the open hand that satisfieth the desire of every living thing; and yield most hearty praises to God who sends them in unerring wisdom. I trust that Thou wilt make my thoughts at this time profitable to me, and send me on my way with a humbler sense of my unworthiness. Let Christ be all in all to me; and then, by thy grace, I may rejoice with joy unspeakable, beyond the transitory things of earth to interrupt or lessen. For Jesus' sake receive my prayer and thanksgiving; and grant that in keeping thy commandments, I may show forth thy continual praise. AMEN.

EVENING THANKSGIVING.

'LORD, Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations.'—*Ps.* xc. 1.

THE heavens are thine, O Lord; they tell of thy power, and show thy wondrous works. The earth also is the work of thy hands, which Thou hast made for the children of men, that they may rejoice in thy bounty. Thou fillest all things living with plenteousness. I will thank Thee, for Thou art our Creator, our Benefactor, our Preserver; Thou givest us all things richly to enjoy; Thou renewest our strength for thy continual service; every day Thou providest for us; every night Thou watchest over us.

Increase my thankfulness, O Lord, for these many blessings, and for thy greater mercies in Jesus Christ. I am too apt to forget Thee, when Thy sun shines on me without a cloud; to think that my present joy shall not be interrupted; and when it is so, my rebellious spirit is quick to murmur and repine. Thou hast seen how often I have thus been ungrateful; and I pray for grace to detect these besetting sins, as they lie uncovered before Thee; to confess them more penitently; to lament them more earnestly.

Graciously pardon my thoughts and actions of the past day, which have been to the dishonour

of thy Name; and cleanse my heart from every evil passion and sinful desire. Bring my offences and omissions to remembrance; and grant that I may see them and turn from them with godly sorrow, and retire to rest to night, with stronger resolutions to choose that good part which shall not be taken from me.

Be with all who are travelling by land or sea. May they experience the blessing of peace with Thee and with all men, and faithfully commit themselves to Thee, who 'hast been our dwelling place in all generations.' Console those deprived of sleep, with heavenly meditations. Give patience to the afflicted, relief to the sick, and deliverance to those who are in peril.

Merciful God, fill every heart with thankfulness; and especially for the mercies of redeeming love in Christ our Saviour. AMEN.

WHEN HINDERED UNEXPECTEDLY.

'The LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.'—*Nahum*, i. 3.

O LORD our God, by whom thy servants are conducted safely, in better ways than they would choose for themselves, mercifully give me at this time both an obedient and a thankful spirit.

In thy good providence, I am unwillingly detained, when desirous to be making further progress toward some other and newer scene of gratification, (or in hope of joining expectant friends,) (or of returning more quickly to that home which is associated with so many thoughts of affection and peace). Unworthy murmurings are contending with that entire submission which so rightly becomes me. I know that this detention must be best for me, but it is difficult to subdue the longing desire that the event were otherwise. O Lord, pardon this presumptuous spirit, so corruptly opposing itself to that better part Thou wouldest have me choose, of bending at thy feet, with holy supplication that my will may be as nothing, and thine become unreservedly mine.

Be it therefore unto me, according to thy good pleasure; and so may thy servant ever be attentive to those lessons, which teach the true blessing of simple dependence on thy wise and loving dispensations, for continued safety and defence. And I humbly pray, that the eternal Spirit of Truth may lead me to trace in such providences a higher purpose than mere self-restraint, to be again forgotten, when their removal may seem to leave me free to follow the worldly inclinations of to morrow with keener desire, because delayed for a little time.

Lord Jesus, as Thou hast entered into thy kingdom through much tribulation, let me never

be deceived, by the thought that the disciple can find any safety, but in following where Thou hast set the seal of thine own example. Help me now to consider, in what manner it becomes me to prove that I am thine, and that my trust is in Thee for the better hope of everlasting life. Grant that my faith may not fail, nor patience become wearisome, nor my love grow cold and formal. Blessed Saviour, give me thy peace now, and when the days of life are ended, receive me to thine eternal kingdom. AMEN.

IN TIME OF DANGER.

'It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.'—*Lam.* iii. 22.

THOU art my portion, O Lord, therefore will I hope in Thee. Thy compassions fail not; and it is of thy mercy only that I am not consumed. In the land of the living I will not fear, but quietly wait for thy salvation.

Thou dost often manifest Thyself to thy servants, when some heavy affliction weighs them down, regarding joy and peace as having fled for ever; or when dangers and trials are multiplied, and there appears no hope of deliverance. In thickest darkness, thy Truth dispels it; and they are comforted with the assurance, that 'the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,

neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.' The prayer of faith which they present is answered by a faithful God; and in his redeeming grace, they learn more fully the goodness of Him in whom they have confided.

Lord, be merciful to us, in this peril which seems ready to cause grief and sorrow, if not to overwhelm us with calamity. Let none of us forget thy former mercies. It is Thou who continuest our life, and every day refreshest our souls with new evidences of thy compassion. Sustain us with the strength of thy right hand; and in all our efforts for preservation, may we look to Thee, and to none other, to give them success.

Break down, O Lord, the spirit that exalts itself against Thee. Bring conviction to my mind, and repentance to my heart. Put a new spirit within me, and bless thy own renewing work of grace, that it may be fruitful, enduring, and exemplary. In compassion on my soul, teach me the true value of eternal things. May I live in daily remembrance, that there is nothing to be desired in this time of mortality, which can be compared with the riches of thy glory, yet unseen, and only to be revealed at the last day.

May we all possess the hope, that shall never be ashamed, as it rests on our Saviour Jesus Christ, the sure confidence of every believer. AMEN.

IN TIME OF DEPRESSION.

'Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness.'—*Ps.* cxii. 4.

ALMIGHTY GOD, with whom is everlasting life, I come to Thee, that my understanding may be enlightened to see more clearly the great things that concern my eternal peace. There are dark hours and darker thoughts, from which Thou alone canst set free my soul; to find that thy presence was only hidden for a little time, when I preferred darkness to light, in loving inordinately some perishing object of worldly gain or pleasure. I cannot see, whilst these obscure the brightness of thy Truth; I must continue in fear and darkness, unless Thou art pleased to put a better spirit within me, that I may abound in more earnest fruits of obedience and love.

Though I am assured, that in thy mighty power my weakness shall be perfected, yet there are many unchristian doubts remaining, and when tried or tempted, I can only oppose the feeblest resistance of a trembling heart. I magnify the strength of the temptation, instead of exalting the author of all power, who is my sure defence.

On thy good providence I depend for all that supports the life Thou hast given; for renewed health to exercise, and for intelligence to apply its powers in furthering any good work for

which Thou hast adapted and prepared me. From Thee alone can I have strength to endure; and to Thee I look up for all that can sustain and enlighten the soul, when it may be good in thy sight to try me with hard things, and prove whether the faith that is in me be ready for evil days, or only as a broken reed, that betrays him who leans on it.

O Lord, mercifully spare me, whom Thou hast redeemed by thy own Son; and give me grace to separate myself from all that is hateful before Thee. Help me to walk with Thee in sincerity and humility, willing to do or suffer whatever Thou dost appoint, so that I may be found in Christ. My continual help cometh from Thee, who hast made heaven and earth. Preserve my going out and coming in, for Jesus' sake, even till my appointed days are ended; and then may I be ever with Him. Amen.

AGAINST UNTIMELY FEARS.

'He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.'—*Ps.* cxii. 7.

LORD, Thou knowest our infirmities, and in compassion to them, hast provided a refuge from every trouble by which our faith and constancy may be assailed. Thou invitest us to cast all our care on Thee, for Thou wilt order all

things for good to them that love Thee And yet my heart is so ready to despond, that when danger appears near, or evil tidings reach me, I am cast down by distrust, and I overlook the providence of an all-bountiful God who watches over all his creatures.

With how many mercies hast Thou sustained me hitherto. Through what great and many perplexities hast Thou carried me. From what imminent dangers hast Thou defended me. In temptations Thou hast been my helper; in sickness my great physician; under sorrow Thou hast comforted me; and where the way that leads to thy kingdom of glory has seemed obscure, Thou hast made it plain, and guided me in it. I will praise Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast dealt wonderfully with me, and with those whom Thou hast given me. I will rejoice in thy faithfulness, and call on Thee without doubting.

To whom else should I go, when fears oppress me? Thou hast given thine own Son, to take our nature and experience our wants. May the love which invites sinners, as children whose souls are precious in thy sight, find more returns of love and gratitude on my part. Lord, increase my endeavours to do thy holy Will in singleness of heart. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to Thee be given all glory, praise, and adoration. AMEN.

ON ESCAPE FROM DANGER.

'Because Thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.'—*Ps.* lxiii. 3.

ALMIGHTY LORD, whilst thy works of nature are ever manifesting the riches of thy providence, thy wonders of grace and mercy, richer still, cease not to remind us that Thou beholdest all thy creatures, and art mindful of the very least; not only to guard them from harm, but to give them what is better than life.

O what abundant love is shown, in that paternal care which has this day watched over me, and kept me safe when danger threatened. When thy hand is thus stretched out to preserve the life Thou hast given for the glory of thy Name, I would look to thy spiritual mercies so abundantly bestowed in Christ our Saviour, and learn how greatly Thou hast loved my soul. I remember his gracious words, declaring that 'God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved;' and knowing that 'He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no man cometh unto the Father but by Him,' I would plead for grace to stand fast in this blessed hope of everlasting life, which is more to be desired than length of days and freedom from calamities.

For his sake, through whom alone I can

approach the throne of Grace acceptably, teach me to place my entire confidence for strength to overcome sin on the supporting grace of the Holy Spirit. Whilst Thou continuest me in the world, grant that I may not be of the world. 'Bring into subjection every thought to the obedience of Christ;' and as I learn of Him, may I strive more diligently to follow where He would lead me to his eternal kingdom. Let thy merciful loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon me, as my trust is in Thee through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

ON RECEIVING GOOD NEWS FROM HOME.

'I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.'—3 *John*, 4.

O LORD my God, mercifully receive the praises, with which I would conclude another day, wherein thy blessings have been poured out on me bountifully. The enjoyment of health and abundance has been permitted me; no sorrow has interrupted them; no evil has befallen me; thy light has beamed upon me, and thy power has defended me. And Thou hast made me glad with good tidings from my home and family. They have shared in thy overflowing mercies, and their hearts are joined in grateful

remembrances of Thee our Father, who hast been present with them, as with me, to guide us in right paths, and to watch over us, as those whom Thou lovest. O fill all our hearts with deeper thankfulness; and give us more grace to lay hold on the hope of everlasting life in our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ.

Keep our dear relatives ( ) from forgetting Thee, and work in their hearts firmer convictions of the excellence of thy service, and of the love which hath redeemed them from the power of the great enemy of mankind. Teach them to find their happiness, in willingly submitting their will to thine, rather than in the gratification of their own desires. And as they learn more of Christ, grant that they may prove their stronger faith by increasing love to Him.

I entreat Thee also thus to preserve and direct thine unworthy servant; and to permit me a happy meeting amidst the comforts of home, with those of whose welfare I have heard to-day. Answer the prayers of the absent for their beloved ones, according to thy wisdom and thy goodness. And in thine own good time, bring us to thy heavenly rest, where there shall be no more watching nor separation. Our Lord has gone before. May his peace be with us all to-night, and the Holy Spirit sanctify our hope in Him. AMEN.

ON HEARING OF FAMILY AFFLICTION.

'O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?'—*Matt.* xiv. 31.

HAVE mercy on me now, O Lord, and pardon my sin, in those distressing fears which prevail over me on learning that one dear to me is, in thy providence (laid on a bed of sickness). Art not Thou with him* as with me, a very present help in time of trouble? Has thy love grown cold, that it takes no heed; or is thy hand shortened, that it cannot save? Lord, keep me from dishonouring Thee, by doubting the truth and faithfulness of thy Word; for thy compassion faileth not, and Thou art more ready to hear than we are to pray. I am rebelling against Thee by not resting in thy love wholly and entirely. I pray Thee to put away my sin, and to give me an increase of thy Spirit, that I may be no longer faithless, but believing.

I entreat Thee to compassionate my dear ( ) in his trouble and weakness, to relieve the violence of his sickness, to bless the means of restoring health, and to renew his strength for more extended usefulness. Send

* Or "her," as the case may be.

him also the consolations which thy Holy Spirit alone can give, and sustain his faith and hope, that they may not fail. Casting all his care on Thee, may he fear no evil, because Thou art with him, and thy Word is as light in a dark place. As his hope is in Christ, may the love of Christ abide with him in the peace that passeth understanding. And, if it be for our good, grant us a happy and joyful meeting, to unite again in prayer and praise to Thee, the Author and Giver of all mercies. Yet, not as we will, but as Thou wilt. May all our desires be in subjection to thy infinite love, and 'Thy Will be done' pervade every petition.

O Lord, bless the teaching of thy holy Word to each of us. Cause its truths to enlighten, and its promises to support us; and grant that we may feel their power in bringing us more humbly and truly to the throne of grace, for all that can preserve the body or exalt the soul. In them may we discern the way of faith and obedience; and from them may we learn how to follow our Lord and Saviour, in life and death. Accept our prayers in his Name, and receive us for his merits' sake, O merciful Father, now and evermore. AMEN.

WHEN SICK AWAY FROM HOME.

'LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.' —*Ps.* xxxix. 4.

ETERNAL and Almighty God, what is our life before Thee? Thy Word abounds in images declaring its shortness, its uncertainty, and its frailty; and yet in this quickly passing time must be worked out all for which life is given, all that will fit us for a coming life that shall be for ever.

But though our infirmities are many, Thou wilt give strength for every need; and though our time may be very short, Thou makest it long enough for its great end. Thy mercies in Christ exceed even our desires; and in Him we are enabled to find the sure hope and enduring peace which cannot be taken from us. I will thank Thee, gracious God, for all thy providences towards me, whether in sickness or health, assured that the corrections of thy hand will all be made effectual to bring me nearer to Thee.

Lord, grant that thy Will may be done in me and by me. This is the supplication taught us by our Lord and Master. O that my heart may truly desire this complete submission to Thee. If it be good for me to bear much, help me to bear it in much patience, humility, and prayer,

that it may produce in me good fruits of thy gracious favour. If Thou only layest on me some lighter burden, grant that I may not overlook thy love, in thus dealing with me in great compassion to the weakness of the flesh. If Thou art pleased to restore me to my home with renewed health, mercifully preserve me from forgetting how frail I am, and how soon the measure of my days will be completed.

I acknowledge my offences; I plead only thy eternal love in Christ the Holy One. O bless thy present work of mercy to my increase in grace and faith. Every day prepare me to meet my Saviour; and when I shall see Him as He is, may it be for ever in heaven. AMEN.

IN IMPAIRED HEALTH.

'Though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.'—*Lam.* iii. 32, 33.

LOOK graciously on me, O Lord my God; and fulfil in me the many merciful promises, wherewith Thou dost invite thy children to cast all their care on Thee. Grant me so to believe faithfully in our Lord Jesus Christ, that I may obtain mercy; and so to bear patiently what Thou layest on me, that patience may have its perfect work in me.

I know that Thou carest for me. O may thy

salutary corrections speak to me as a voice from heaven, to withdraw my heart from fading vanities; that my affections may be set on better and more enduring things, on treasures that never perish, and on love that knows no intermission.

'And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee.' Increase this hope, I beseech Thee, that it may grow stronger and firmer until the time when hope shall have done its work. Let none of thy rebukes be unavailing; and whilst they humble and prove me, may thy Spirit give more strength to run the way of thy commandments. Our Lord Jesus 'took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses;' and through Him I trust that these trials which Thou now sendest me, may be for my growth in holiness and the honour of thy Name.

Merciful God, grant that as the way of life, which 'is above to the wise,' presents to me new views of the glorious inheritance of thy saints, the corruptions of the old Adam may be conquered in me by thy subduing grace; and that as a new creature in Christ, I may stand fast in Him for ever. Lord, restore thine own likeness in me. Bring me out of myself, to find all that is perfect in Christ. And let my heart entirely rejoice in Him, who is 'the resurrection and the life,' our great Redeemer, from the power of sin and death. AMEN.

CONVALESCENCE.

'They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength.'—*Isa.* xl. 31.

O LORD, my heavenly Father, make me joyful in pouring out before Thee all my wants and fears, all my hopes and doubts, my difficulties and trials; in sure belief that these will be thy care, if my heart is given to Thee, in earnest desire for that spiritual life which is the foretaste of heaven. Full of infirmities, I must continue a humble suppliant all my days; but my strength is made perfect in weakness, and I trust that the power of Christ may rest upon me, in thus seeking and finding in prayer, a never failing resource for every necessity, and a sure solace for every sorrow.

None can estimate the value of a redeemed soul. I humbly desire to remember Thee always; and amidst the blessings, the duties, and the trials of life, to acknowledge thy directing hand, and to rest on that love which is made perfect in Christ, whom Thou didst send to be the Saviour of the world.

May an abiding sense of unworthiness to come into thy presence, or to ask anything of Thee, be acknowledged in every prayer, and a true conviction of sin induce continued perseverance. Though

my offences be great and my infirmities many, let me not expect to be heard in much speaking, but rather in a humble spirit of dependence, with sober words out of a clear understanding. Gratefully remembering that the Lord our Righteousness is ever interceding for those who pray in his Name, may my petitions gain increasing warmth, as by thy grace I am enabled to realize his presence and his love. And with all thy mercies, let me never fall into the grievous error of concluding that my prayers are unheard, because thy blessing does not seem to follow quickly, or in the way expected.

Graciously elevate all my hopes of peace and happiness towards the eternal home, which Thou enlightenest with thy Majesty; and in looking towards it as the rest of those blessed ones, whom Thou redeeemest from the dominion of a corrupt nature and an evil world, may I seek it more faithfully, and pray for it more fervently. As Thou art in heaven and thy servant on earth, may I abide in Christ, in steadfast faith and patient humility, believing thine own gracious Word — They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. AMEN.

RESTORED HEALTH.

'Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.'—*Ps.* ciii. 2.

O BOUNTIFUL GOD, from whose love come life and its responsibilites, health and its many blessings, salvation in Christ, and all its hopes; graciously accept my praises that Thou hast forborne to cut me off in unprofitableness.

When the infirmities of sickness rested on me, I prayed for strength and restoration to life's active duties. I thought how unprepared I was to meet the Judge of all men, and besought a little while to be given me, that in repentance and amendment I might be found resting on Him, with fuller hope of immortal life. I remembered some most dear to me, and considered whether I had been to them as a friend in Christ, to teach them the way of truth, and to encourage them by a holy example. Thou knowest how unworthily I have exercised the talents and benefits committed to my charge, and how many neglected opportunities and hollow excuses bear witness against me. I can only come now to thy throne of grace, with the humblest petition, that as Thou renewest my health, Thou wilt renew my soul in well-doing; and that when thy mercies are thus magnified upon me, my heart may be filled with gratitude, my tongue declare thy

praises joyfully, and a new spirit be in me to follow Christ more zealously, and yet more humbly.

To Thee be all the glory of all that now invites my love and thankfulness. No thoughts of mine can compass what thy merciful kindness provides, in rich abundance for daily need; thy benefits are numberless, thy care unwearied.

As Thou art pleased to restore strength for bodily exertion, so give me also stronger resolutions to be thy willing servant. Holy Spirit, this is thy work of sanctification; cleanse my heart from every corrupt imagination, and keep me in the sure way to a heavenly life hereafter. Lord, have mercy on my soul, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.

PARENTAL INTERCESSION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.

'The promise is unto you, and to your children.'—*Acts*, ii. 39.

GRACIOUS GOD, who dost vouchsafe thy abundant blessings on the families that hope in Thee, I beseech Thee to watch over the little ones of thy flock, whom Thou hast given me to lead in the way of truth. Committing them prayerfully to thy care, I know they will want no good thing; O teach them to know it also, and

to submit obediently to those appointed to be their guardians and instructors. Direct them from their earliest years to know their Almighty Father; and the more they learn of thy glorious perfections, the more may they rejoice in those hopes and privileges to which thy love has called them in Christ our Saviour. Help them to declare their love to Thee, by loving one another, and by striving to do as well as learn thy Will. And, in fearing every evil thought or act, may they show that the love of Thee is dwelling and growing in their hearts. Guided by the Holy Spirit, may they pour out their hearts in simple words to Thee, who art the Giver of all that can make them happy. Do Thou mercifully hear them, when they ask to be made wiser, and better, and more thankful, and when they pray for my preservation and that I may be restored to them again in peace.

Lord, carry on thy work of grace in their hearts. Bring them nearer to Thee every day; and by the teaching of thy holy Word may they acquire a right understanding of the great things of thy perfect law, and learn to fix their whole trust in Jesus Christ, the mighty Saviour. Through Him alone may they have hope of beholding thy gracious presence in heaven. O God our Father, bless them in this present time, provide for them henceforward, and prepare them for eternity. AMEN.

FOR DIRECTION IN PRAYER.

'I will that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands.' —1 *Tim.* ii. 8.

BLESSED GOD, there is no place from whence the prayer of faith may not find acceptance at thy mercy seat. Teach me therefore by thy Holy Spirit, after what manner to pray everywhere, that in so holy an exercise, I may be brought near to Thee, and preserved from asking anything injurious or unprofitable. May the hands lifted up to Thee be free from unholy deeds; the lips that utter my wants and thanksgivings be unstained by words which thy Spirit cannot bless; and the thoughts that move my speech be controlled by the charity that thinketh no evil.

O Lord, who knowest all my infirmities, mercifully keep me in the way of truth. Purify every prayer from formality, pride, or hypocrisy. Direct my constant prayer that I be not forgetful of thy presence and inspection; and that I may ever follow the perfect example of the holy Jesus. And do Thou move my dying lips to tell thy praises, and to testify my trust in Him the only Saviour, through whom every offering of prayer or praise must be presented. AMEN, for his sake alone.

GOD'S MERCIES REMEMBERED ON RETURNING HOME.

'The LORD hath been mindful of us.'—*Ps.* cxv. 12.

I WILL remember Thee, O Lord Almighty, who hast been about my path and about my bed, and hast guarded my habitation and family, and brought me to them again, refreshed and strengthened for the work of life which Thou appointest me. Thou hast been my preserver, even when I chiefly regarded the fleeting objects that filled my mind with pleasure or with wonder. Graciously remember me now, when I look backward on the mercies I have so often abused. I beseech Thee to compassionate and forgive my unfruitfulness in many things. Be mercifully pleased to deliver me from the influence of that spirit of independence, which has led me to overlook the Creator in the midst of his sublimest wonders, and teach me to know the lesson of my helplessness, which I failed to read in the heights and depths of nature's mysteries.

Let me be truly assured that the best place for me is where Thou hast planted me, and that the Holy Spirit will effectually teach me to carry out the designs of thy providence in sending me into the world. May it be my ardent en-

deavour, to advance the doctrine of God our Saviour by a consistent and godly life, and to wait on Thee continually with patience, humility, and steadfastness. Be my counsellor when difficulties obscure the way of holiness, or ease and luxury may allure me to turn aside from the one sure path. Help me to enjoy with gratitude all Thou givest me, making others thankful also by sharing with them thy good things; and to relinquish with cheerfulness all Thou art pleased to take from me, that I may know how to suffer as well as how to abound, and learn to praise thy Name, though the world's enjoyments may seem fading away. Enable me to watch against and overcome the trials, which from within and from without may surprise me unprepared. And, knowing that no adversity can happen to me but by thy permission, I trust that Thou wilt also bestow strength to bear it.

Ascending in thought to the glorious heaven, where Thou, O Lord Jesus, hast gone before, to prepare eternal habitations for thy redeemed, and from whence Thou watchest all their conflicts, I acknowledge Thee as my Saviour, and entreat that it may be the end and purpose of my being to follow thy perfect example. May the grace of the Eternal Spirit be ever with me, my sanctification in life, my support in death. AMEN.

THANKSGIVING AT HOME.

'Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the the prosperity of his servant.'—*Ps.* xxxv. 27.

THY merciful kindness, O Lord, aboundeth towards us, and thy truth endureth to all generations. Thou art our gracious God; I will praise the riches of thy goodness. Thou art our mighty defender; I will speak of thy wondrous power. Thou hast sent thy Son to bring us to everlasting life; in Him will I surely confide.

A few (weeks) ago I knelt before thy mercy-seat, with those whom Thou hast endeared to me; to entreat thy blessing on my separation from them; to commit my way and theirs to Thee, that Thou mightest be the watchful Guardian of my safety, and to them a Father and Preserver. We commended each other to thy care and keeping, with thanksgiving for the past and prayer for the future; professing our hope and dependence on Thee for daily bread; and trusting in thy providence to restore me to the home of so many blessings, and to keep that home free from grief or calamity.

Our supplications have been heard and answered, and Thou hast again permitted us to unite in declaring the praises of thy bounty. Graciously hear my confession, when I remember the dangers through which I have passed un-

harmed, and on how many occasions I have failed to consider that arm of strength by which my feebleness has been sustained.

Lord, pardon all my sins of forgetfulness, and increase my faith in turning from what is seen to what is revealed. Guide me still through the remainder of the journey that begins with infancy and can have no issue but in eternity; the journey where there is no safety but in perseverance, no resting place but at the end, and wherein to loiter is to fall. Bestow on my dear family many spiritual gifts, to lead them in the way of holiness; and give me grace to live in such manner, that my example may be profitable to them, and thy glory be our mutual aim.

Looking to the fulness of thy mercies in Christ our Saviour, I would repose all my hope on Him, who has 'tasted death for every man.' He is 'the Light of the world,' and in following Him we 'shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.'

Holy Spirit of Truth, I beseech Thee to guide and sanctify our lives, whilst we continue travellers on earth. And when we come to die, may we fall asleep in Jesus. AMEN.

PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURE

SUGGESTED FOR PERUSAL AND MEDITATION

DURING A JOURNEY.

Gen. xii. The calling of Abram.
xiii. The separation of Abram and Lot.
xxi. (9-21). Hagar and Ishmael sent away.
xxii. The trial of Abraham's faith.
xxiv. The journey of Abraham's servant.
xxviii. Jacob's journey and vision.
xlii. to xliv. Joseph and his brethren.
xlv. xlvi. Jacob's journey into Egypt.
Exod. xiii. xiv. The Israelites' departure from Egypt.
xv. Moses' song in the Wilderness.
xxxiii. Speaking with Moses.
Deut. vi. to viii. The Israelites exhorted to obedience.
xxxii. Moses' song on approaching Canaan.
1 Sam. xxiv. xxvi. David hiding from Saul.
1 Kings, x. The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon.
xviii. Elijah and Ahab.
xix. Elijah in the Wilderness.
2 Kings, iv. Elisha and the Shunammite.

Ezra, iii. to vii. Ezra's commission to rebuild the Temple.
Nehem. i. ii. Nehemiah sent to Jerusalem.
viii. Ezra reading the Law.
Psalm viii. God's Name excellent in the earth.
xix. God's glory and grace magnified.
xxiii. The Lord our Shepherd.
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lxv. Praise to God for his benefits.
xci. The security of God's people.
civ. God's mighty power and providence.
cxxi. The safety of the godly.
cxxxix. God's all-seeing providence.
cxlvii. Exhortation to praise God.
cxlviii. God's praises in heaven and earth.
Isaiah, ii. The coming of Christ's kingdom.
xxv. God's power and victorious salvation.
xxvi. A song of confidence in God.
xxxv. Christ's kingdom, and Gospel privileges.
lv. Exhortation to faith and repentance.
Jer. xxxi. Israel's restoration. The New Covenant.
Dan. vi. Daniel's constancy in prayer.
Jonah, iii. iv. Jonah and the Ninevites.
Habak. iii. God's majesty and power.

Matt. iii., Mark, i., Luke, iii. The preaching of John the Baptist.

Matt. vi. (24–34). Casting our care on God.

Matt. viii., Mark, iv., Luke, viii. Christ stilleth a tempest.

Matt. x., Mark, vi. Christ's Commission to preach the Gospel.

Matt. xiii., Mark, iv. Parables of the Sower, &c.

Matt. xiv., Mark, vi., John, vi. Christ walking on the sea.

Matt. xxiv., Mark, xiii., Luke, xxi. Christ's Second Coming.

Matt. xxv. Parable of the Talents.

Luke, x. Parable of the Good Samaritan.

xv. Parable of the Prodigal Son.

xxiv. (13–32). The Disciples' journey to Emmaus.

John, iv. Christ and the Woman of Samaria.

Acts, viii. (26–40). Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch.

ix. Saul's conversion.

x. Peter sent to Cornelius.

xi., xii. Peter at Jerusalem.

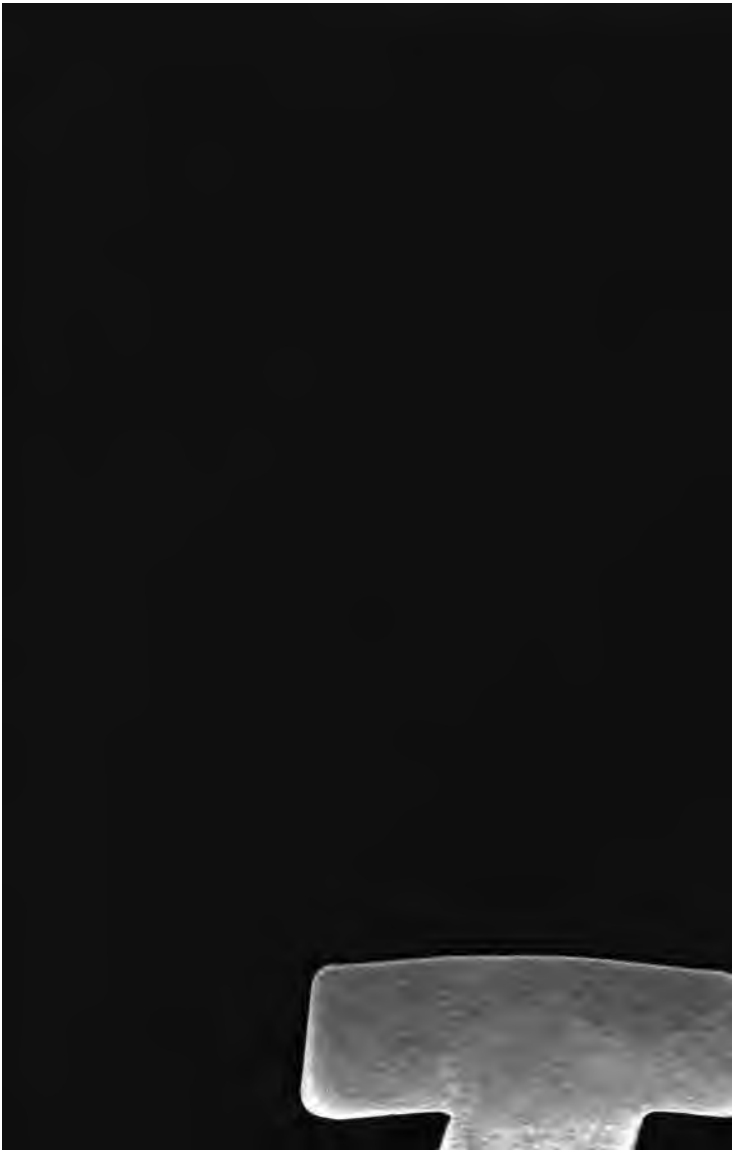
xiii., xiv. The Journey of Paul and Barnabas.

xvi. Paul and Silas on their journey.

xvii. Paul at Thessalonica and Athens.

xviii., xix. Paul at Corinth and Ephesus.

xx. Paul in Macedonia.

Acts, xxi. to xxvi. Paul's journey to Cæsarea.
xxvii. xxviii. Paul's voyage and shipwreck.
2 Cor. xi. Paul's perils and sufferings.
Heb. xi. Faith and its fruits.
James, iv. (13–17). Submission to God's will.
2 Pet. iii. Christ's coming to judgment.
Rev. vii. The Sealing of God's servants.
xxi. xxii. The Heavenly Jerusalem.

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